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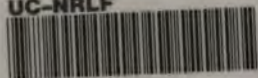
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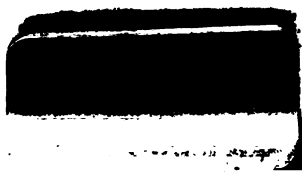
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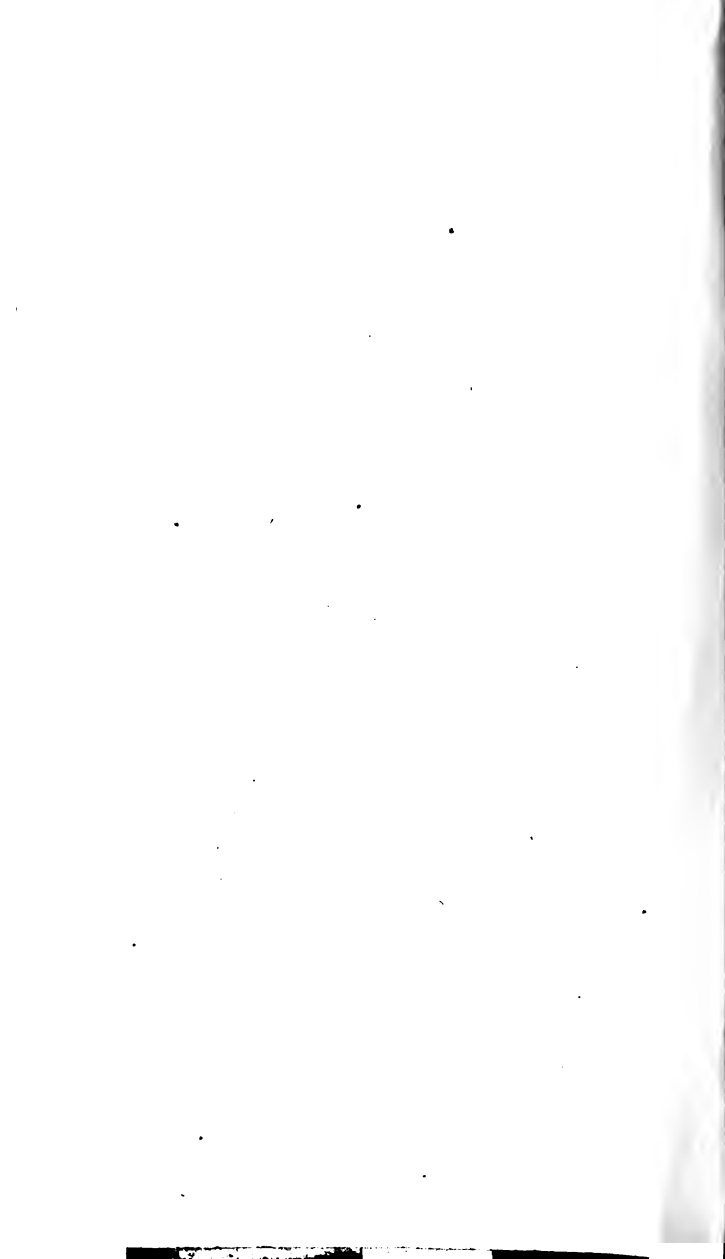
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CHRYSAE,

OR THE

ADVENTURES OF A GUINEA.

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CURIOUS AND INTERESTING ANECDOTES,

*Of the most noted persons in every rank of life whose
hands it passed through,*

IN AMERICA, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, GERMANY AND PORTUGAL.

BY AN ADEPT.

Charles G. Lumsden

.....Hold the mirror up to nature,
To shew vice its own image, virtue his own likeness:
And the very age and body of the times
His form and pressure.....*Shakespeare.*

QUI CAPIT, ILLE FACIT.

FOUR VOLUMES IN TWO.

VOL. I.

Baltimore:

PUBLISHED BY F. LUCAS, JUN. & JOSEPH CUSHING.

JOHN M. PRATT, PRINTER.

1816.

"Even the idea of the much admired
venture of a Guinea" is borrowed from the
Sophia of the Younger Crutillon in
Hist of Mod. Europe. Part II. Lit
XXXIV. Vol 4 p. 446.

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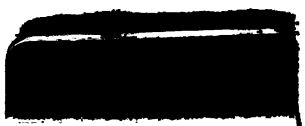
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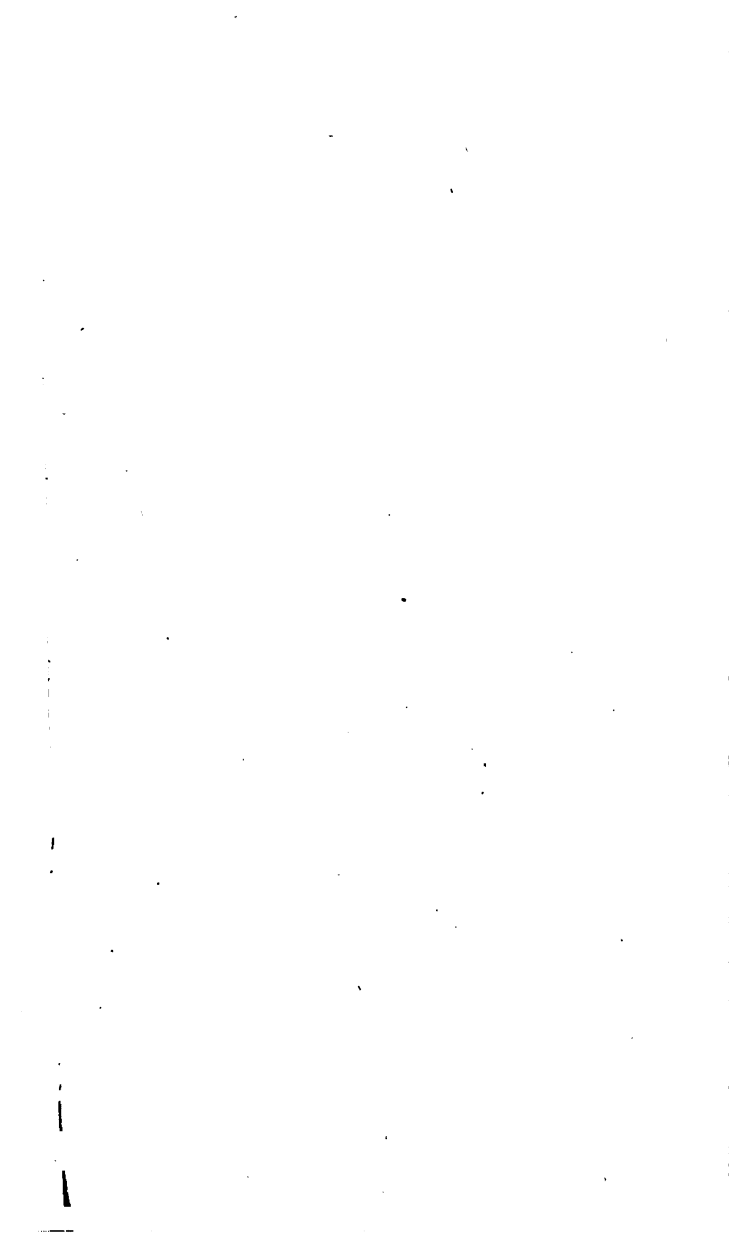
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*Of the most noted persons in every rank of life whose
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IN AMERICA, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, GERMANY AND PORTUGAL.

BY AN ADEPT.

Charles G. Lusk

.....Hold the mirror up to nature,
To shew vice its own image, virtue his own likeness.
And the very age and body of the times
His form and pressure.....Shakespeare.

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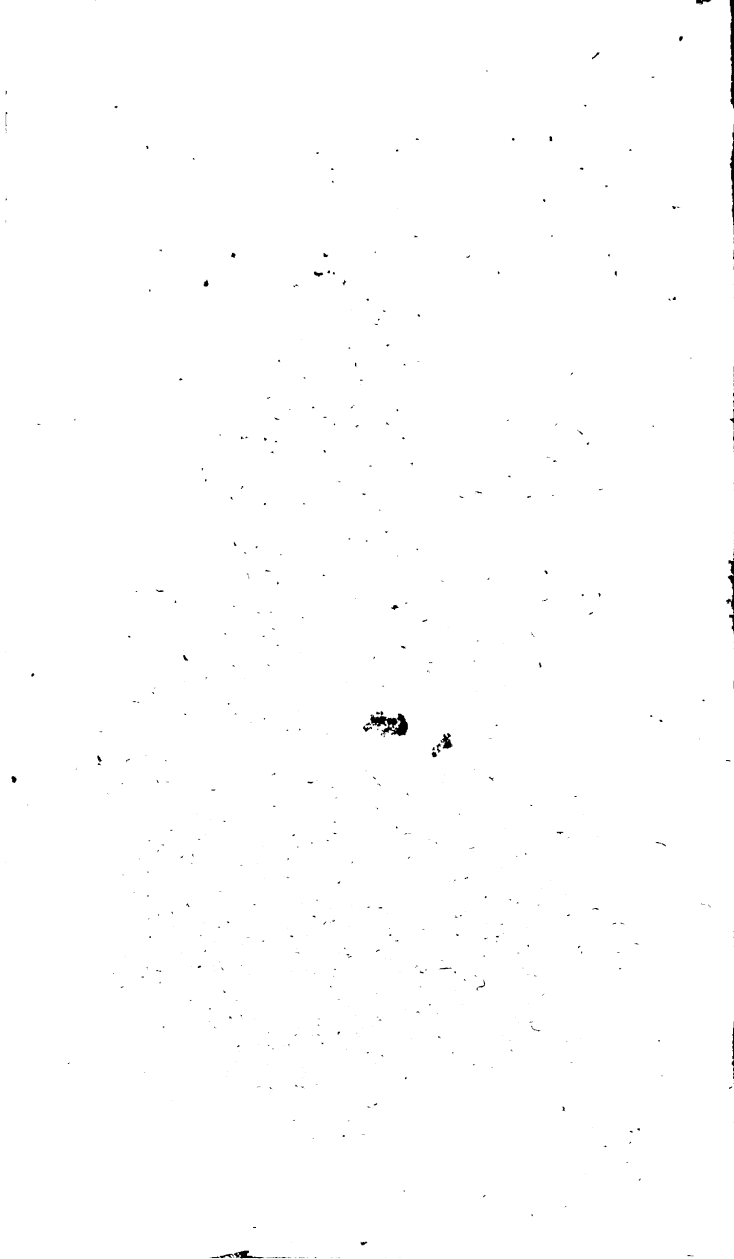
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CHAPTER I.

ON a day, when long and strict abstinence had purified my body from every *terrene* incumbrance, and intense contemplation wound up my mind to an enthusiasm fit for *empyrean* conversation, as I stood with my eyes riveted on the *obstetric* flame, in strong expectation of the birth of the "mystic child, the first born of the morning," ready to seize the happy moment, "when the earth sufficiently impregnated with the water, ascendeth white and splendent, that I might compound the pure elements before they fly from the fire, and so perfect the great work," my eyes began to dazzle, and the power of imagination overwhelmed my soul. I saw a blue effulgence break from the liquid gold, and play about the genial vase! I was astonished! I thought it the substantial form of the son of the sun! I thought the happy moment was come, when the rose of the east should bloom in the desert, and mine the favored hand to cultivate its growth! I indulged the pleasing thought! I melted in the virtuous joy! and, in obedience to the divine impulse, I kneeled to receive the reward of all my labours, the radiant crown of wisdom and glory, from the hand of nature, with every sense and faculty suspended, for fear of interrupting the mysterious process.

As my soul hung in this extacy, the flame which wrapped the sacred birth in the bed of purification, arose with the glory too strong for mortal sense, and filled the room. My senses sunk under the pressure, and I was dissolved into a trance, when a voice, celestially harmonious, encouraged me to raise my eyes, and I beheld the body of the effulgence condense into an incorporeal substance in the form of a spirit, while a placid shade softened the fierceness of the radiance, and made it tolerable to human sense.

An holy horror curdled all my blood; but the melody of the same voice, which had before emboldened me to look up, reassured my fainting heart with these words: "Son of pains and votary of science! thy unwearied perseverance has prevailed, and I am sent to crown thee with the virgin rose! I am CHRYSAI,* the spirit of that incorruptible mass now glowing in that vase before thee, who in reward of thy noble constancy in offering this thy last mite, on the shrine of knowledge, am come to reveal to thee the mysteries of nature, and satisfy that raging thirst for wisdom, which has so long excruciated thy soul, and thus emaciated thy body! And, that thou mayest the better comprehend the greatness of this honor vouchsafed unto thee, I shall trace the operations of nature through her most secret recesses, and illustrate the truth of what I say, by a detail of the various incidents of my being, in my present state, to prepare thee for the reception and proper use of that grand secret which I shall afterwards communicate.

"I can see your thoughts, and will answer every doubt which may arise in your mind at the wonders of my relation, without the interruption of your enquiries, as awful silence is the essence of my converse, the least breach of which puts an end to it forever! Listen then in mute attention, nor let a breath disturb the mystic tale!"

The works of nature are infinitely various, and her methods of operation inscrutable to the curiosity of that vain intruder Reason, which has of late presumed to pry into her ways, and to doubt, if not deny, the reality of all effects, which her short sighted eye cannot trace to their causes! a presumption that has justly shortened the line of human knowledge, and condensed the mist of ignorance which overspreads the world! Some noble efforts, though I see the nature of man preparing to make, to recover that eminence of conjecture and credulity which alone can merit such a communication of extraordinary knowledge as is now indulged to you; some of the most hidden

* Derived from the Greek, and signifies Gold or Golden, from her animating a piece of gold; for by the universal authority of the occult philosophy spirits are always denominated from their office.

truths which I shall here unfold, has unassisted genius discovered already, and more shall curious penetration make learned guesses at even in this sceptic age.*

Know then, that in the economy of nature, to ease the trouble and keep up the state of its great author, "a subordination of ministerial spirits executes the system of his government in all its degrees; one of whom, for the greater order and expedition, is made to actuate every divided particle of matter in this immense universe." In this distribution, that portion of gold was assigned to my charge, upon its first feeling the influence of the † "etherial fire of the sun, the general minister of the divine commands." This happened in Peru, where that body, of which I then became the spirit, was torn from its peaceful bed, two hundred fathoms deep in the bowels of the earth.

I shall not describe my surprize, at my first plunging into those realms of darkness, nor shall I satisfy the curiosity I see rising in you, whether that period was the beginning of my existence, or whether I was, either as a punishment or reward for a past, or a preparation for a future, life, thrown into this. These are mysteries not yet discovered, though often most learnedly guessed at. All I shall unfold to you are points already known, or such as I see ready to be found out by human industry, as it would put an end to learning to make a revelation of the objects of its inquiries. Such matters, I say, I shall explain to you, and farther relate some occurrences, the knowledge of which will be equally useful and entertaining, which happened to the several persons with whom I have had intercourse, in the various stages of my present state.

And, as you may be at a loss to know how I could arrive at the knowledge of such facts, many of which happened long before my converse with these persons, I shall inform you that beside that intuitive knowledge, common to all spirits, we of superior orders, who animate this universal monarch, GOLD, have also a power of entering into the hearts of the immediate possessors of our bodies, and there reading all the secrets of their lives; and this will explain to you the cause of that love of gold which is so remarkable in all who possess any quantity of that metal. "For the operation of every material cause is in proportion to the strength of the spirit actuating that cause; as the strength of the spirit is reciprocally in proportion to the quantity of his material body;" and consequently, when the mighty

* See all the modern hypothetical philosophy.

† Siria. Would not these and many other passages of the same nature, which support the systems of those celebrated works, almost tempt us to think that the writers of them must have had a communication with this or some such spirit, to come at knowledge so supernatural.

spirit of a large mass of gold takes possession of the human heart, it influences all its actions, and overpowers or banishes the weaker impulse of those immaterial, unessential notions called virtues; and this intuition and power of transmigration I have thus explained to remove every shadow of doubt of what I shall relate.

CHAPTER II.

THE first object that struck me when I darted on the power of a sun beam into those infernal regions where my body was just dug up, was the person in whose hands it was when I took possession of it.

Dark as the gloom of such a place must be, a melancholy that doubled all the horrors of it, sat upon his brow. He gazed a moment on me* in silent grief, and then groaned out these words with a vehemence that seemed to burst his heart: "Damned, damned, pernicious, damning gold! how dearly do I purchase this momentary possession of thee! But let me acknowledge the justice of my fate! I wished only for gold, and now this equivocal grant of that wish is the just punishment of the folly and the wickedness of it." Grief here choked his utterance! he could say no more, but sobbed aloud, while all the dreary caverns echoed to his anguish.

Curiosity prompted me to learn the cause of his distress: I therefore immediately entered into his heart to read the events of his life which I doubted not but I should find deeply imprinted there; but I was surprised to find that room in it, which I could plainly see had been possessed by the love of gold, so filled with sense of pain, with grief and remorse, that I could scarce gain admission.

Upon this I mounted into the sensorium of his brain, to learn from the spirit of consciousness, which you call self, the cause of so uncommon a change as it is contrary to the fundamental rules of our order, even to give up an heart of which we once got possession.

I found the spirit very busy, though I thought somewhat oddly employed: she was running over a number of *niches*, or impressions on the fibers of the brain, some of which I observed she renewed with such force that she almost effaced others which she passed over untouched, though interspersed among

*Chrysal must here mean the gold which now became her body, as she does not say that she appeared in the spirit to any one before the author.

them. The sight of me seemed to suspend her works a moment, but, as if that pause was only to recover strength, she instantly renewed her labour with great assiduity.

I looked at her—my desire to know the meaning of what she was doing and to signify the cause of my visit, to which she returned me this answer in a glance that interrupted not her work. “I see you wonder that I speak of this spirit, though the self of a man, as if it was a female; but in this there is a mystery; every spirit is of both sexes, but as the female is the worthier with us, we take our denomination from that.” You are surprised, looked she, to find me so earnestly engaged in work which you do not understand, but in this work consists my very essence. This place, where we are, is the seat of memory, and these traces, which you see me running over thus are the impressions made on the brain by a communication of the impressions made on the senses by the external objects.—These first impressions are called ideas, which are lodged in this repository of the memory in these marks, by running which over I can raise the same ideas when I please, which differ from their first appearance only in this, that on their return they come with a familiarity of a former acquaintance.

How this communication is made I cannot so well inform you; whether it is by the oscillation of the nervous fibres, or by the operation of a certain invisible fluid, called animal spirits, on the nerves; no more than I can explain to you how my touching these marks, on this material substance the brain, can raise ideas in the immaterial mind and with the addition of acquaintance beside, for these are matters not yet fully settled among the learned.

All I know is, that the thing is agreed to be so by some or other or all of these means; and that my whole employment and end of being is to touch them over and acknowledge their acquaintance thus, without my doing which a man would no longer continue the same person, for in this acquaintance, which is called consciousness, does all personal identity consist.

As for the work, I am just now particularly engaged in, you must know that this man, whom, as I am his self, I shall henceforth, for conciseness and perspicuity, call myself, was once possessed of, or in power of possessing, every real happiness of life, till an insatiable desire of riches hurried him into measures which overturned all that happiness, and in the end plunged him into this gulph of misery.

The traces of that happiness are those which you see me pass over without renewing, by which means he forgets that he was ever happy, except sometimes when the trace of any particular unhappiness comes so near that of any instance of happiness,

as unavoidably to touch it, which touch, by the renewal of the idea of such happiness, only aggravates the sense of the present want of it; and thus I make memory either a blessing or a curse, according to the nature of the trace which I renew.

I see you are astonished how a person who was ever happy could possibly fall into such misery as I am now in, but I shall remove that astonishment by the history of my life in which I shall accommodate my accounts of places and things to the circumstances of my present state, without regard to the universality of our spiritual nature, and call them by their names among men without the delay or trouble of description.

CHAPTER III.

My name is **TRAFFIC**—I was the only son of a wealthy merchant in London who bred me to his own business. There was nothing remarkable in my youth, except that the characteristic passion of my heart, shewing itself in the very dawn of reason, in my eagerness to engross and hoard up the bawbles of my playmates, and the far fetched schemes I laid to overreach them in all our little bargains.

My father was at first delighted with this cunning, which his fondness took for the first essays of a great genius, but when he saw me persist in it after I grew up and attempt to practice the same arts in the course of my business, it gave him serious alarms for my future conduct, for he had ever been averse to these artifices which are called the mysteries of commerce, and owed his success solely to close application in the plain way of a fair trader.

But this caution I looked upon with contempt, as timidity and want of genius, and undiscouraged by his constant repulses to all my bold strokes and deep schemes which I was continually suggesting to him, I resolved when I should be at liberty to indulge my own inclinations, to strike out new ways that should afford me opportunities of exerting my abilities in their full strength and shewing them in their proper lustre.

The vanity which prompted avarice to form these designs would so often break out in boasting that my father was fully acquainted with them, and a sensible decline in his health quickening his apprehensions for me, his tenderness would omit nothing which might show me my error in its proper light and prevent my falling into so destructive ways.

Calling me therefore into his closet one morning, he addressed me in these words, which dear experience has now printed deeply on my heart, though then they had no weight with me:

"My son," said he "the day approaches fast when you will be in possession of the fruits of my honest industry—I leave you a good fortune, and I have the happiness to be able to tell you in this trying moment, that no wilful private wrong or public fraud makes me wish it were by one penny less. As therefore it was acquired in the fear of God, if not abused it will wear with his blessing. Habit had so wedded me to my business that I could not leave it off myself, and I bred you to it, to indulge as I thought the bent of your genius and to prevent idleness from tempting youth to folly; but now that dangerous season is past with you, and the labour of my life has taken away all necessity of labour from yours. Be wise then, my son, and enjoy the happiness which heaven offers you, without tempting a reverse! You will have riches, more than enough for every natural want, for every rational wish, and it will sweeten your enjoyment of them and draw down the blessings of heaven on your head to employ the superplus in acts of private benevolence and public spirit, in which best of employments the abilities with which you are so liberally blessed, will find ample room for their exertion, and your pious endeavours be rewarded with a success that will be an happiness to your life and an honor to your name.

"As for the profession of a merchant to which you have been bred, heaven points it out to the inhabitants of this country, nor can any other be more advantageous to it; but still, even that advantage may be pursued too far, and the extreme of industry may sink into avarice; and so disappoint its own end.

"For I must tell you, my son, that though trade adds to the wealth, yet too eager a pursuit of it, even with the greatest success, diminishes the strength of a nation. I am sensible that this is against opinion, but truth when properly displayed will force conviction.

"The real strength of a nation consists in the prevalence of disinterested spirit, which, regardless of self, throws its weight into the public funds, as may be proved by many examples of small poor states conquering large wealthy ones; whereas the spirit of commerce centers all in self, discouraging and despising as folly every thought which does not tend that way, and so breaking that unanimity which is the very essence of power and only can give it success. A reflection this, my son, which observation confirms too strongly at present, and which seems to overcast the prospect of this happy nation.

"My advice therefore to you, is to retire from business, though not to idleness. You will have a fortune that will make you of consequence in the state and give you sufficient employment in

the conduct of it without embarrassing your mind with anxiety for more; and to enable you to follow this advice with the greater ease, I have settled all my affairs and shall leave you free from every entanglement of life. This is the advice, the request of a fond father, who desires compliance from his dear son, and would not force unwilling obedience by an act of authority or command; but should the love of business have taken such a hold of your heart as habit gave it of mine, and not permit you to comply with this request, take, my son, the advice of experience, and hold fast the clue it offers to guide you through the labyrinths of trade in which the vivacity of your genius may otherwise lose its way; nor are the rules I shall hint to you many to be remembered or difficult to be observed: Be just, my son, in all your dealings—wrong not individuals nor defraud the public.

"These are the rules I recommend; but in them is comprised more than perhaps appears at first view. Do not therefore think them too obvious to have been necessary to be repeated, nor let the mention of them give offence by any seeming implication of personal doubt.

"In the business of a merchant these rules comprehend a great extent of meaning, though I shall mention but a few instances of it at present.

"As for the first, every misrepresentation to mislead ignorance or abuse credulity, every taking advantage by superior knowledge, is a wrong to the party deceived, as every artifice to evade the intention of the legislature is a fraud against the public, nay, against yourself and every individual who claims the benefits provided by the ordinances so defeated of their support.

"This indeed is so obvious that it were an affront to reason to insist on any proof of it. The most eager pursuer of illicit trade will not vindicate a general indulgence of it; and if it is not lawful for all, how can it be for him; or with what colour can he claim a profit, which he is conscious arises only from deceit, and from the benefit of those very laws which he thus defeats?

"The temptations to this breach of honesty, I own, are many and great, and some of them perhaps plausible; particularly in those branches of trade, which seem to bear a more than equal share of the weight imposed for general advantage. But, in opposition to this, it must be considered, that it is impossible to provide so exactly for a thing, of so fluctuating a nature as trade, that the balance shall not incline, in some one instance; and that it must, by the same motion which oppresses one, be favourable

to some other; and so preserve the equipoise in the whole; and this obviates the only shadow of an argument, that can be brought in defence of this too common practice.

"As for the former, of avoiding private wrong, that is more difficult, and less defensible, if possible, than even this. For where all the powers of the mind are turned to make advantage, it is very hard to refrain from taking it, where we ought not, and bringing the great business of life into common practice, in its minutest concerns.

"The man, whose soul is on stretch to take advantage, in a bargain for thousands, on the exchange, will be apt perhaps insensibly to overlook an error that is not to his disadvantage, in a tradesman's bill, or to take no notice of a guinea given instead of a shilling in change at the tavern, though either is as great dishonesty, as if he took them in a manner punishable with death by the laws; not to mention the innumerable little instances of temptation to this kind of wrong, which occur in every moment's dealing. That we may avoid temptation, is one of the petitions of the divine prayer, and never more necessary to be offered up than in this profession, whose constant practice opens innumerable instances of it upon us.

"In a word, my son, there are so many and so strong arguments of this nature, to be given against all trade, that the general advantage of the commonwealth alone can, in any way, support it against them. This therefore should be written in the deepest characters, on the heart of every merchant, that he should never let private interest tempt him to engage in any trade or scheme that can interfere with the public interest, or is forbidden by the laws of his country.—I shall say no more; nor burthen your mind with farther advice. Observe this, and be happy."

I was obliged to hear him; but his words, at that time, made no more impression on my mind, than the whistling of the winds, nor in the least altered my intentions; though I felt no scruple in promising obedience, the breach of which could never be upbraided to me, as I could not think of practising it, before his death should remove the only person who had such an authority.

CHAPTER IV.

THE opportunities which I had long panted for, arrived too soon; my father dying just after I was of age, and leaving me possessed of wealth sufficient for me to exercise my talents on, as I was not blessed with prudence to take his advice, and put it to its proper use, in rational enjoyment.

I was immediately a man of consequence, and that, not only in my own eyes. I made a figure upon change; I signed among the foremost in the public subscriptions. But all this did not satisfy me. I sickened at the thought of having an equal, not only in wealth, the darling object of my soul, but also in the reputation of acquiring it by methods of my own striking out; as I looked upon the known course of business as too slow for my advances, and too limited for my genius.

I therefore immediately became a *SCHMER*, and entered into every project which my own brain could invent, or artful imposition suggest to me, blindly, wilfully giving up the serenity of of an open mind, for the vain appearance of mysterious consequence and design; and making my fortune a prey to every sharking projector who flattered my vanity with promises of success, in the very attempts which had been his own ruin.

The perplexity in which this infatuation soon involved my affairs, far from opening my eyes, only set me upon deeper schemes. Sporting upon private adventures, taking in unwary confidence, flinging the fair trader, by eluding the restrictions of law, were now too small a game for me; I was entangled, and must cut the gordian knot by some bold stroke.

I therefore threw off all restraint, and entered into measures the most injurious to my country, which was then engaged in a just and extensive war. I insured the effects of its enemies, and of consequence gave them information how to avoid its forces. I carried on their trade with other countries; I supplied them with provisions from ours; and at length went so far as to lend, and procure them money to support the war against ourselves.

But all my schemes met their just fate. Though I could give their ships information how to avoid our squadrons, yet they fell into the hands of unstationed privateers. My subterfuges for carrying on their trade were seen through, and a stop put to them before I could receive the stipulated profit. The stores I bought for them were intercepted by our fleets, and to conclude all, the enemy by one stretch of arbitrary power, refused to pay any debts, and appropriated the funds provided for that purpose to the present support of the war.

This finished my ruin; I had not only lent them all my own fortune, but had also borrowed much more to supply them, on confidence in their promises, than I was now able to pay.

In this situation, the advice of my father returned full upon me, and aggravated my distress. But I had no time for reflection, the horrors of a jail stared me full in the face, which I had no way to avoid but by flight; the equivocalness of my character having made every honest man, who was able to assist me, afraid of being concerned with me. I therefore imme-

diately-raised all the money I possibly could, and embarked secretly in a ship of my own for Jamaica; heaven, to make its justice the more signal, using my blackest guilt as a chain to draw me to the vengeance I deserved.

I must stop here, and look back to give you an account of an affair which the precipitancy of my ruin prevented my mentioning in its proper order.

Much as such a complicated scene as I have described must have taken up my time and engrossed my thoughts, I had still found leisure for guilt of another nature, though ultimately springing from the same cause.

I have told you that my father acquired his own fortune by industry; but as the greatest industry requires a foundation to work upon, his had been assisted by the person to whom he served his apprenticeship, who knowing his abilities, and confiding in his honesty, upon the decline of his own health, established him in partnership with his only son, whom he thought too young to conduct so extensive a business.

My father faithfully executed this great trust, and continued the partnership, till his observation of my unfortunate disposition determined him to make me quit trade; when it was dissolved, without the least breach in that real friendship which had so long subsisted between them. Though I did not obey my father's desire, yet my vanity would not admit a thought of recommencing the partnership, as it would have been but a curb on my favourite schemes, and have implied a want of assistance, which, in my opinion, I was far above. On the contrary, I rather declined too close a connection with him in business; as I feared he might have taken him to interpose his advice against any thing, which his narrow, fearful temper might disapprove in my great designs; but as I kept up every other appearance of regard, and even respect for him, this shyness was not observed, nor any coolness occasioned by it, in the intercourse of intimacy between us.

But for this conduct I had another motive, besides regard for him. He had an only daughter, enriched with every beauty and virtue that could mark the favourite work of heaven. She was about four years younger than me, which difference of age had given me an opportunity of treating her with such a fondness, from her very infancy, as raised a real love in her grateful heart, as her beauties did the strongest one it was capable of feeling, in mine. Our fathers had seen this growing attachment, with the greatest pleasure, from the beginning, and encouraged it between us, (our mothers died in our infancy) joining in the general opinion, that the union which had always been between their families would be completed by the

intermarriage of their children; an opinion that was then my pride, and seemed a pleasure to the young Amelia's honest heart, that was above disguise.

But my father's death, before she was of an age to undertake the cares of such an awful state, and a long illness of her father's after, during which her filial piety and love would not admit a thought of any thing that should interfere with her tender regard for him, prevented my happiness from being accomplished, while there was any obstacle that could hinder my evil genius from defeating it.

At length, after languishing five years, her father died without a moments more immediate warning, having been on the exchange that day as usual.

In the tumult of this loss I was sent for, and no will being found, for he unhappily had not imagined his end so near, nor made any settlement of his affairs, in the confidence of our attachment Amelia gave every thing into my hands, and requested me to make up all her father's accounts and conclude her dealings with the world.

This happened just as my scheming had begun to embarrass my affairs. My heart therefore, never proof to much temptation, yielded to such an opportunity of recovering the losses of my folly at her expense, by sinking the greatest part of her fortune to my own use, never considering that I might have the whole in a just and honorable way, enhanced by the greater blessing of herself.

To accomplish this design and prepare her for what was to follow, I pretended to Amelia that I found many difficulties in her father's affairs, and having secreted as much as I thought proper and could with safety, and destroyed every memorial that might detect me, for all which her unbounded confidence gave ample opportunity, I at length gave her in an account, with the strongest expressions of concern, "to find what I had long apprehended was too true and her father's affairs in a very bad situation; that I had however with great difficulty got together something about ten thousand pounds, and was convinced that this perplexity in his affairs was the occasion of his long illness, and had not left him spirit enough to enquire into them and make a will."

This representation had the effect I designed; Amelia's confidence in me would not admit a thought of my deceiving her, as pride, too powerful in the purest human heart, prevented her revealing her circumstances to any one else, who might have attempted to disprove what I said, though indeed it was scarce natural to suspect me of a deceit, that, according to the opinion which then prevailed concerning Amelia and me, could only affect myself.

She therefore with an appearance of surprise, rather than doubt or even concern, acquiesced and signed a receipt in full, desiring me to destroy all her father's books and papers as they could be of no farther use to her.

This completed my design beyond a possibility of detection, and even raised a new one against the poor pittance I had left her, though it was not quite a fourth part of what was really her right; for I had now thrown off all thoughts of marriage with one so far beneath me in fortune, looking upon it as a reproach to my wisdom and knowledge of the world to make any bargain in which I should not have the advantage; for what I had so basely defrauded her of, I considered merely as an acquisition of my superior skill in business, and absolutely my own, without any manner of obligation to the person from whom I had obtained it; not that I had lost my desire for her person, (the only degree of love my heart was capable of feeling) but the advantage I had it now in my hopes to obtain over her, made me look upon her as a sure prey to my pleasure.

CHAPTER V.

THOUGH my whole life was one continued scene of villainy, yet in all there was a gradation, a regular descent from bad to worse; each successful crime opening new opportunities and suggesting schemes which never entered into my thoughts before.

This was exactly my case with regard to Amelia. While she was in possession of her whole fortune, the highest wish of my heart was to marry her; but no sooner had an unhappy accident given me an opportunity of defrauding her of far the greatest part of it than that respectful love immediately sunk into loose desire, and my success in my former schemes against her, set my thoughts at work to accomplish the gratification of this passion, on my own base terms.

To bring this design to perfection, it was necessary that I should get her fortune entirely into my power; which I accordingly formed schemes to accomplish without delay; for the success of my former attempt, so far from satisfying my avarice, or raising any sense of compassion in my breast for her wrongs, had made me look upon herself, and all that belonged to her, as my property, which I was as impatient to possess as if it was detained from me by injustice.

I therefore took occasion one day, to drop some words of concern, at my not having immediately by me a sum of money to lay out on most advantageous terms, which had been that very morning proposed to me.

She directly took the hint, and said her little fortune was still in her hands, in the same bank notes I had given her; and if the use of it, for any time, could be of advantage to me, she should feel a greater pleasure in my taking it, than in any profit she could make of it, any other way.

This was just what I wished; and though I could scarce refrain from laughing, at the easiness with which she took the bait, I would not accept of her offer but with this restriction, that I would consider whether the terms proposed to me might not be more advantageous than the interest I could afford her if I should make use of it myself. I said this with an equivocal smile which she understood as I would have her, and immediately with an assenting blush put the notes into my hand, without requiring a receipt or any kind of acknowledgment for them.

Having thus gained that which I reckoned the better part of Amelia, and sure, as I imagined, of herself, when necessity should humble her to my designs, as I had the whole means even of her subsistence in my power, I directly resolved to close with an offer some time before made me by a wealthy merchant of a large fortune with his daughter, whom I accordingly married a few days after I had got possession of Amelia's money.

I shall spare myself the pain of any farther description of my wife than that she was the very reverse of Amelia, in soul and body, and my marriage consequently as unhappy as I justly deserved.

But I comforted myself with hopes of happiness in the enjoyment of Amelia, whom I looked upon as my own, and only deferred making my base proposals to her till her resentment at my marriage should cool and I could devise some plan of privacy to elude the vigilance of my wife. Not but I dreaded the first emotions of her anger, which I expected to break out in loud complaints. But I was mistaken in measuring her soul thus by my own. She scorned to complain, nor did I hear a word from her to interrupt the riot of my wedding. A greatness of soul so far above my comprehension that I attributed it to fear of giving offence to one in whose power she must be sensible she was.

But at the end of the month I was awoke from those dreams by a message from her, delivered by a relation of hers, to desire I should pay in her money to him, for which he would give me her receipt. As I was not prepared for this, I believe it threw me into a confusion too visible; but I soon recovered presence of mind enough to answer that "I could not but be surprised at such a demand, as Amelia must be sensible that I had paid

her all the money of hers that was in my hands for which I had her discharge in full."

The gentleman replied in astonishment "her discharge sir! that was when you settled her affairs; but she says that she since then gave her whole fortune into your hands to lay out for her; and sir, my cousin is known to be neither a fool or a liar, though I fear she has suffered severely for her ill placed confidence." "Perhaps she says so, sir," said I, "but I know nothing of the matter, and am not accountable for what she says or you think sir; and I suppose if your cousin is not a fool she has not given her money without something to show for it—But you must excuse my talking any longer on so idle a subject; and so, sir, your servant." The mine was now sprung, and I waited with impatience for the event. As to her demand, I knew she could not support it, as there was no person present when she gave me the notes, and I had negotiated them in a manner beyond all possibility of their being traced.

While I was hugging myself in this security, the friends of Amelia persuaded her to bring a bill in chancery against me, in which the whole affair was set forth without any exaggeration; but this I made light of, as I had my lawyer ready, under whose directions I swore such an answer as set her charge entirely aside. Elate with this success, I thought this the time to pursue my victory, and wrote her a letter, in which I attributed every thing in my conduct of late, that might have surprised her, to love and despair of obtaining her by any other method, and offered her a settlement above the demand she had made to me, if she would consent to my desires. This I wrote in such general terms that my letter could not be brought in evidence against me, and the largeness of the offer was only to decoy her into a treaty, there being nothing farther from my thoughts than ever to make her independent of my pleasure.

This insult only added new fuel to her resentment, and all the answer I received was by another bill, but this met the same fate by the same methods with the former.

After this I heard no more of Amelia for some time—but what was my astonishment when I was informed that she had sold off her jewels, and other little effects, and was gone to a relation of her's who lived in Jamaica! This broke all my designs, and despair of ever obtaining her awoke my love and aggravated my remorse for my ill usage of her almost to madness.

From this time the hand of heaven seemed to be upon me—every thing I had any concern in miscarried; and to hasten my ruin my house was a perfect sink of riot and debauchery. My wife, as she had no charms to excite desire, in a manner publicly purchasing the gratification of her lusts at the most

extravagant expense, and living in a profusion that must destroy even a royal fortune.

Mine, great as it had been, sunk under so many dissipations of all kinds, and I had no resource left, as I said before, but in precipitate flight, which heaven made my passion for Amelia direct to Jamaica, to mark the justice of its vengeance the more plainly.

CHAPTER VI.

I had hitherto varnished over my villainies with hypocrisy, and strove to preserve some appearance at least of virtue. But this was a restraint no longer possible, nor indeed profitable to me now, when my flight took off the veil and alarmed all mankind against me, so that mine was really a state of war with all the world.

On my arrival in Jamaica I had the addition to my grief to find that Amelia had been taken in her passage thither by a Spanish privateer.

This drove me to despair—I was wearied of life, but resolved not to die unrevenged on those who had thus, as I thought, robbed me of my hopes, never reflecting on the improbability of her hearkening to my suit.

Burning with this project, I fitted out my ship, and manned her with a crew as desperate as myself; resolving, though the war was at an end, to pursue my revenge upon the Spaniards, on the defenceless coasts of their American dominions, in which my other passions were urged to haste, by fear of my creditors, the news of my sailing having come to Jamaica, almost as soon as myself.

We therefore set out upon our cruise, or rather piracy, without delay, of which I shall not raise your horror with any further particulars, than that we went directly into the Spanish Main, where we not only rifled all the ships we met, but also made descents on the coasts, and ravaged with a barbarity that was a reproach to human nature.

The tumult and hurry of this life kept my spirits in an agitation, that gave a kind of respite to my grief; and the spoil we made in our first enterprizes was so great, as to awaken hopes of restoring my affairs, so as to enable me to return to England with all the credit wealth could give.—And could I have known when to stop, I was soon rich even beyond my most sanguine hopes: but urged by avarice, and encouraged by success, I still went on headlong to my fate, which I met in an attempt upon a town, some way up in the country, the convenience and pleasant-

ness of whose situation had made it the residence of the richest families in the whole province; as its distance from the coast made them live in a state of perfect security, without any fortification or guard.

To this place we directed our march, one evening, and arrived at it a little after midnight, with an intention to surprise the inhabitants, and return to our ship with the spoil, before the country could rise to intercept us.

The first part of our design succeeded, and we got possession of the town without any resistance; where we committed all the outrages, and roamed about with the licentious carelessness of freebooters under no command.

While every one thus prowled about for prey, fate goaded me to an arbour in a garden, whither I followed the cries of women! I was just rushing in among them, inflamed with brutal desire, when—what was my astonishment to see Amelia in the most magnificent undress, throwing heaps of gold and jewels into a vault that opened by a trap door into the arbour. I stood motionless at the sight for some moments, in distrust of my senses, but two such objects as she and her riches, soon awoke me from my trance, and I advanced to take possession of both, resolving not to discover myself till a more proper time; the strangeness of my dress, that was designed to strike horror, and the blood which, from scenes of cruelty and murder just committed, still reeked upon my hands and face, making it impossible that she should know me.

At the sight of me, the women all shrieked, and Amelia, as I advanced to lay hold on her, fell into a swoon. This embarrassed me greatly, as I had no time to loose; for our centinels just then sounded a retreat. However, I thought I would wait a little, to see if she recovered, and stooping to raise her, to give her air, I received such a blow from behind, as deprived me of all sense for several hours; when, on my recovering, I found myself chained on the ground in a dungeon.

It was sometime before I could believe my senses, or conceive where I was: till the jailor coming to see if I was alive, gave me to understand, that my companions had gone off without me, and left me in the hands of a nobleman, who had himself knocked me down, as I was going to commit a rape upon his lady, while she lay in a swoon; and that I had been thrown into this dungeon, that, if I recovered, I might suffer the punishment due to the outrages we had committed both here, and in several other places of their dominions.

I wanted no further information to shew me the horrors of my situation. I saw them all, and aggravated an hundred fold, by the accusations of my own conscience, that could now trace

the hand of Heaven in the justice of my punishment which had thus overtaken me, in the presence, and on the account, of Amelia. I wished for death, as my only relief, and determined to seek it; but, alas! my resolution failed me; and I feared to die. In this misery I was dragged before a magistrate, who, enumerating the crimes we had been guilty of, condemned me to immediate death.

This sentence, so much milder than my fears, awoke an hope of further mercy, to obtain which, my evil genius suggested it to me, to apply to Amelia, absurdly flattering myself, that some sparks of her love for me might yet remain alive, or, at least, her goodness take delight in shewing itself superior to my ill treatment. Base hope, that met its just reward!

I therefore waved attempting a defence of other crimes, as I was conscious that I could not make any, but asserted my innocence, as to the particular discharge of a base design upon Amelia, at the time I was taken, adding, that "I had the honor of being nearly related to that lady, and that, if I was indulged with a few words with her, in the presence of all there, I hoped I might be found to merit a mitigation of my sentence."

On my mentioning the name of Amelia, I observed one of the principal persons in the court, whom I soon understood to be her husband, kindle into rage. He did not, however, interrupt me; but as soon as I had concluded he started up and exclaimed, with the most furious indignation, "Amelia thy relation! No more than angels are related to devils, by springing from the same creator! Her virtues are dishonored by the claim! But she shall appear and disprove the odious calumny."—Saying which words, he instantly went for her, while an hollow murmur of surprize and detestation made the silence of the court the more dreadful, and heightened the horrors of my suspense.

But I waited not long: Amelia soon appeared, led in by her husband, and being seated by the judge, "Where," said she, looking round with the serenity of conscious virtue, "Where is the person who says he is related to me?"

The sight of her threw me into such a conflict of passions, that, without reflecting where I was, or how necessary it might be for me to raise her compassion by some moving address, that might soften the severity of her resentment for my former treatment of her, as well as assure her of my innocence of any base design against her person, in the condition she was in when I was taken, I could not forbear crying out in English, (for I had spoken before in Spanish, in which I expressed myself but badly,) "O Amelia! hast thou then forgotten me?"

At the sound of my voice she started, and looking earnestly at me for a moment, fell upon her knees and, lifting her

hands and eyes to heaven, she said aloud in Spanish, "O god, how signal is thy justice! let me, let all the world acknowledge and adore it!"—And then rising and turning to her husband, who stood in amazement; "this, my lord," said she, "this is the man of whom I have informed you: this is that Traffic whose base dishonesty obliged me to leave my native country; and so, by that providence, which is able to turn the greatest misfortune into a blessing, was made the cause of my present happiness with you; I abjure all kindred with him; I desire he may be examined as to my story; and, if he can vary in the least from what I have told you, let me be condemned to the severest punishment, but that of staying longer in his sight, or ever seeing his face more."

On this she withdrew, without deigning a look at me: But her words had a proper effect upon my heart, and I resolved to do her justice. I therefore prevented her husband's command, and, in as few words as possible, related the black affair with the strictest truth. When I had concluded, her lord declared, that I had not only confirmed every thing that she had told him, but added many circumstances of my own guilt, which she had omitted, or perhaps not known.

So complicated guilt seemed to require consideration to find out proper punishment, so I was remanded to my dungeon, but without the least encouragement to hope. The next day I was again brought into the court, where my former sentence was changed into that of being broke alive on the wheel; and this severity was said to be in justice to Amelia.

When I had stood some moments, stupified with fear, the judge addressed me again in these words: "Thou hast heard, O wretched man, the sentence due to thy crimes; but great as they have been, mercy extends her hand to thee. The virtues of the illustrious Donna Amelia overbalance thy guilt, and have prevailed for a mitigation of thy punishment, in gratitude to that divine providence which made thee the cause of her coming among us. Thou shalt not die, because we would not kill thy soul, before thou hast had time to repent of thy crimes; nor shalt thou suffer torture, that thy strength may not be impaired for the labour to which thy life is doomed; for this is the last day that thou shalt ever behold the light of heaven: Thou shalt immediately descend into the mines, there to work out the residue of thy unhappy days, in raising that gold for the use of others, the insatiable desire of which was the cause of all thy guilt."

I would have spoken, in the agony of my soul, to desire death; but I was stopped by the judge, who sternly said, that to hear a word from me would be an insult upon justice. On his saying.

severe frown, told him, "that was a great sin, which he must atone for, by working two days for the church, without hire, and abstaining from flesh, at the same time, though it was generally allowed."

He next confessed, that he had beaten a dog belonging to a priest, which had broke into his hut, and eaten the pottage prepared for him, by which means he had been obliged to go to sleep without his supper. At this, the priest knitting his brow into tenfold austerity, exclaimed, "This is rebellion! rebellion against your God! do you not know, that the dog of an ecclesiastic is above the greatest, even white layman, much more a wicked native. You must make amends!—you must!—or"—the tone and gesture with which he spoke these words, so terrified the trembling wretch, that he instantly put his hand in his bosom, and pulling me out, presented me, to make his peace. As soon as I appeared, the priest's features softened, the tone of his voice fell, and receiving me, with a gracious smile, "you have not said," says he, "that the master of the dog was a Jesuit! thy crime, therefore, though great, may be forgiven! but beware for the future, and remember, that the world, and all in it, belongs to us; and that to be guilty of the least disobedience, even in thought, is treason, and deserves the severest punishment. Proceed! unburthen your conscience! I know your thoughts, but would have you speak them, that I may prove your sincerity. Proceed! I am in haste!"

The penitent then went on—"O father, be merciful, and I will confess all! Returning from my labour one evening late, I found my door fastened, and, no one answering when I called, I burst it in, when behold, I was father Ignatius in the very act of carnality with my beloved wife Mootaw. I was amazed! and though fear prevented my striking him, I could not forbear thinking in my heart, that he who does those things, can be no god, he must be only man; and I cursed him in the bitterness of my soul; but he was drunk with wine, and did not hear me."

"Wretch! devil! heretic!" exclaimed the father in a rage, "thou intrude upon the privacy of a Jesuit! thou say, he was but a man? thou think, he could not know thy very thoughts, because he had drank wine! audacious slave! Art not thou, and thy wife his? had he not a right to use his own? was it not an honour to thee, ungrateful wretch? and darest thou to think a Jesuit is but a man? But it is enough, the inquisition shall teach thee faith and obedience; the inquisition.—"

At that tremendous word, the wretch, half dead with fear, fell at his feet, crying out, "O father, O god, O king, forgive, forgive! (and pulling out of his bosom the rest of his gold) take this, O lord, from your poor slave, and forgive.—Take this,

which I got at the peril of my life, and saved to buy the liberty of my dear child, whom my master took from me. Take it, and forgive; let her still be a slave; let me never see her more! But O the inquisition! O forgive, forgive!"

The priest, mollified at the sight of the gold, replied, "thou know my compassion, but thou abusest it, and thy crimes are almost too great for mercy. In hope thou wilt amend, and transgress so no more, I will forgive thee now: but thou must be punished: Has thou no more gold?"—"O, father, no more, no more! and this I saved to redeem my dear child!"—"What! insolent! dost thou presume to capitulate? Thou shalt be punished: Instead of getting back thy daughter, thou shalt bring me thy son, whom I saw yesterday, when I bade thee come to confession. The boy I blest and kissed upon my knee."—"O father, father, take all the gold, and let my daughter remain: but spare my son; he is too young, O father, too young for thee." "The inquisition"—"O take him, father, take him, take all, but spare me; I fly to bring my child to thee; O spare me from the inquisition!"—"Tis well, be comforted; thy sins shall be forgiven; perhaps, if thou behavest well, thy son may also be restored. I fear thou hast forgotten thy Christian faith; let me hear the repeat thy creed." The man, somewhat reassured to hear that he should escape the inquisition, and comforted with the hope of having his son restored, began thus—"I believe that God made the world, and all things in it, for my lords the Jesuits; and that I must worship him, by obeying them, and saying the prayers they directed me, to the saints, and the blessed Virgin, the mother of God, and above all, to the great saint Ignatius Loyola. But if I disobey their commands in any thing, or repine at their service, or think, that I must obey the viceroy before them, I shall be burned to death in the inquisition here, and the great devil will burn me for ever, after I am dead." "Well, son, remember and practise thy creed, and thy sins shall be forgiven thee: Go and bring the boy when it is dark."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE severity with which the Jesuit required satisfaction for the imaginary faults of the poor Peruvian, may, perhaps, lead you to think, that his zeal would be inexorable to real crimes; but the following account will shew you, that it was no such thing, and that he looked upon nothing as a crime, which was not detrimental to the power, or temporal interest, of his society. The next penitent who approached the mercy-seat,

was a commander in the army. He advanced with a military intrepidity, and kneeling down in form—"Father," said he, "I have a long reckoning to make, and some of the articles are rather heavy." "My son," replied the priest, "you have had experience of the indulgence of the church, and that no crimes are too black for her mercy, on proper penitence. Proceed then, and open your ailments to your physician; nor fear the efficacy of his medicines."

"You know then, father," said the penitent, "that I have long burned with a passion for the wife of my brother the judge. It was the subject of my last confession." "I remember it right well," replied the father, "and you may remember also what ghostly, yet comfortable advice, I gave you, to strive against and suppress it, if you could." "True, father; but I told you then, that I knew it would be in vain for me to strive, as I was resolved to enjoy her, though at the hazard of my life." "But, son, did I not comfort you, by saying, that if you found it in vain to strive, and could not live without her, as life was the greatest good in this world, it was just that you should preserve yours, by obtaining what you was so violently set upon, but always to be careful that you conducted matters so as not to give offence by your success?"—"Ah! but, father, that was not in my power; she was deaf to all my entreaties; and that threw me into such despair, that, not able to wait any longer, I have, this very morning, had recourse to force." "That was really bad, if it could have been avoided; but, as you would not have forced her, if she would have complied willingly, that alters the case very much in your favor, and perhaps she put you to that trouble, only to save the appearance of her own virtue, and if so, you have both acted right, and there is no harm done, provided the affair is not disclosed."

"O, father, that is the thing; I was afraid of that; and as her husband had always been a father to me, and all my future hopes depended on him, I so greatly dreaded her telling him, that, to prevent it, as soon as I had enjoyed her, I cut her throat."—"Murder, O fie; it is an heinous crime: blood calls for blood: your case is terrible." "I feared so, father: but I depended on your tenderness; and I did not think it reasonable, that I should have all the pleasure of the crime, and you only the trouble of forgiving: I stripped her of these jewels, which give me leave to offer you."

"You are a prudent man, my son; I thought you would act with discretion. I accept the jewels, as a peace-offering to the holy church, for your sins; and as the value of them (indeed they are costly gems) proves the sincerity of your repentance, I shall not hesitate to pronounce your sins forgiven."

"For though adultery is a great sin, and, in this case, aggravated by rape and incest, yet, as you say, it was not because she was the wife of another man, and especially your brother, that you desired to enjoy her, but merely as she was a beautiful woman, therefore the adultery and incest come in but by accident; and then as you ravished her only because she would not comply, the sin of the rape is certainly her's, as I said before: for if I force a man to commit a crime, I am guilty of that crime, and not he: And again, though murder is a most heinous sin, yet as you killed her, not merely to indulge a murderous intent, but to prevent her discovering your having forced her; and so ruining you, the intention quite alters the nature of the fact, and makes it but self-preservation, which is the first law of nature. And lastly, as you took the jewels, not with a design to rob her, but to offer them to the church, and accordingly have brought them, that conclusion sanctifies the whole action, and makes your peace with heaven.

"For know, my son, that crimes which respect man only, as in your case; rape, adultery, incest, murder and robbery, though bad in themselves, it is true, yet are a pleasure to the church to forgive, to a faithful and penitent son, who believes all her doctrines, and pays due obedience to her clergy, the viceregents of God on earth, the receivers of her revenues, and dispensers of her favors and vengeance; to whom all earthly power is subservient, who are the kings of kings, and lords of the world. This, my son, is the doctrine of our holy church, as delivered by the most learned fathers of our order, in the belief of which you will be safe from all the powers of hell: do what you will, while you pay faith and obedience to the church, she will pardon all your sins."

When he had concluded his instructions with this pious exhortation and sealed his absolution with a blessing, the purified saint arose, and said, "Holy father, thou hast set my soul at ease, with regard to hereafter; but I still fear for this world. It unfortunately happened, that I was seen in the fact by a servant, who escaped me, or I should have charmed her silence too; and now I apprehend she will inform my brother." "This is unlucky, most unlucky," replied the priest, "I know not what to advise; I am utterly at a loss: If you should prevent her malice, and accuse her of the fact." "O, but father, the rape; there may be appearances of that, which would disprove my charge against a woman."—"Mistake me not, my son, I do not advise any such thing! Heaven forbid that I should advise to bear false witness against an innocent life: I am utterly at a loss."—"Suppose, father, I should still strive to prevent my fears, by taking off my brother, as I cannot find her: this is the only way

to make easy; ha, father; is not that an happy thought? I wish it had occurred sooner, and then I should have given you but the one trouble." "Why, truly, son, the dead neither make nor receive discoveries: and self-preservation will certainly justify any thing, as I have said before; but I must not advise you; your own genius is ready, and can improve an hint; I must know nothing, till the affair is done; all I can say, is, that work unfinished had better never have been begun.

"Adieu, my son, my blessing waits on all your undertakings. But be sure to hold the indulgent mercy of the church in grateful remembrance."

The officer went away, happy in having lightened the burthen that was upon his conscience, and big with the pious project of making the murder of his brother the first fruits of his regeneration. He was the last penitent of that morning, and, as soon as he was gone, his ghostly director retired to mortify his appetites in the refectory of the convent.

CHAPTER IX.

THE great value of the jewels, which the officer had presented to my master, took up so much of his thoughts, that as soon as he had finished his collation he retired to his cell, to meditate on the farther advantages he might make of this affair.

While he was in this pleasing employment, another ecclesiastic entered, to acquaint him with the murder and robbery of the judge's wife, and among other particulars of the story said, that her crucifix, thought to be the richest in *lay* possession in all Peru, had been taken from her.—"That crucifix!" exclaimed my master starting, for he knew it well, having long paid his devotions to it, and now to be cheated thus of it, when he thought it so justly his due, provoked him almost to madness. "That crucifix taken too; Damned! murderous! deceitful villain! villain on all sides! But I will be revenged!"

The other priest understood not what he meant, and was just going to enquire, when in rushed the captain, all aghast. "O father! father!" said he, as soon as he could speak, "sanctuary! sanctuary! my brother is at the gate, with all the officers of justice!"—At this the father grinned an insulting smile, and beckoning to the other priest to withdraw, "Wretch" said he, "thou sacrilegious wretch! how couldst thou dare to enter these holy walls, violated by thy guilt? didst't thou not fear the fate of Ananias and Sapphira!—As thou didst't deceive me, with thy feigned penitence, and hast lied to the lord, in concealing what thou had'st most justly devoted to him; I revoke the ab-

absolution I gave thee, and will deliver thee to justice, to receive the punishment due to thy crimes. These holy walls afford no sanctuary to sacrilege!"

The poor criminal stood confounded at reproaches, which he dared not interrupt, though he could not comprehend the cause or meaning of them. At length, when the priest had exclaimed himself out of breath, the trembling wretch replied, "O father! what has kindled thy wrath against me? I have committed no crime, since thy absolution purged my soul! I was only going towards my brother's house, when I met him, and the servant with him, with all the officers of justice in search of me, on which I fled directly to you for sanctuary." "I grant no sanctuary to sacrilege."—"What sacrilege, O father?"—"The crucifix deceitful wretch! where is thy sister's crucifix? hast thou not defrauded the church of her due? did'st thou not say, that thou tookest thy sister's jewels, only to make a peace offering for thy sins, and then to secrete, thus, the most defrauding part of them! This is defrauding the labour of his hire! This is defrauding the church of her right, without making the proper compensation! And what can be greater sacrilege?"

Just at these words, a knocking at the gate awoke the penitent from his amaze, and made him apprehend that he had not a minute to lose; he therefore, with the readiest presence of mind, replied,—“The crucifix! father! you astonish me! did I not give it to you?”—And then putting his hand into his bosom, and pulling it out with a look of surprise, he reached it to him—“Forgive, O father,” said he, “the crime of inadvertency! I meant not to have it kept from you, but only overlooked it, in my confusion! Accept it! accept all I am master of, and save my life.

“Son,” replied the father, softening his voice, and taking the crucifix, “I am glad thou wast not intentionally guilty of so unpardonable an offence! I believe, and accept thy excuse. Be comforted, therefore, my son, thy sins are forgiven.” “O but, father, the officers of justice.”—“What officers, what justice dares attempt to shew her face within these walls? Thou art my penitent, I have absolved thee, and I will defend thee. Sit down, and compose thy spirits, while I repel this bold intrusion on the peace and privilege of these holy walls.”

Saying thus, the father went to the gate of the convent, where stood the judge, displaying the guilt of the fugitive to the holy fathers, to engage them to refuse him sanctuary, and give him up to justice. But my master soon stopped him. “Cease,” said he, with a low voice, and downcast, meditative look, “disturb not the peace of these holy walls. The man you seek is my penitent. He has made satisfaction to the

church, and reconciled himself to heaven. I come this moment from giving him the seal of absolution. Disturb not the raptures of his soul, that is now joining with the angelic choirs, in the hymns of joy raised in heaven for his repentance. Depart in peace."

"How father," exclaimed the judge, "can a wretch, guilty of such crimes, so soon have made his peace! He has deceived you, father; he has not told you half his guilt: rape, incest, adultery, and murder! Can they be thus forgiven? So easy pardons but encourage vice."—"And who art thou, presumptuous man!" replied the father, raising his voice, and putting on air of authority, "and who art thou, that darest thus to call the power of Gou's holy church in question! What faith, or rather what heresy has taught thee this presumption? Dost thou measure the divine authority of our unerring tribunal by the weak rules of thy blind law? Are not the keys of heaven ours; and have we not the power to loose as well as bind? But I shall not argue more with thee here; there is a tribunal proper for such opinions as thine; there try if thy knowledge of the laws will justify thy heresies; there thou art not judge."

The first mention of heresy had struck such a terror into the heart of the poor judge, that he was for some moments unable to reply. At last, recollecting himself a little, "I submit, O father," said he, "I am no heretic; I have no opinions but what I learn from the holy church, whose power I acknowledge in all its divine plenitude."—"It is well," replied the priest, "it is well; depart in peace, and to-morrow I will visit thee, and examine the state of thy conscience."

The judge then making a profound reference, withdrew without a murmur, and the triumphant father returned to his penitent. "My son," said he, "thine enemies are defeated. Thy rest is secure here. But such is their power, and so strong the general abhorrence that pursues thy late guilt, that it will not be safe for thee ever to leave this sanctuary."—"O father, must I be confined for ever here?"—"I said not so, my son: there is a way for thee to go in triumph out, above the power of thy present persecutors."—"O name it, father."—"Take our vows. Heaven has blessed thee with a fertile genius, and steel-ed thy soul with fortitude. These talents must not be buried; an account will be required of them; and where can they be put to proper use, except in the service of the Donor, in his church? there they will raise thee to that rank and power, which thou seest us enjoy. I see thou yieldest: Resist not the motions of the holy spirit. I receive thee into the fold. I salute thee, brother. From this moment of thine election, mayest thou date thy entrance into the highest honours of this world. The

day approaches, when thy military knowledge and valor may also be called into action. Great events are ripening in the womb of time!"—"I yield, O father," replied the penitent, "I receive thine offer with due submission and respect, and from this moment dedicate my valour, skill, and every power of my soul and body, to the implicit service of thine holy order."—"It is the hand of heaven, that leads thee, no longer son, but brother. I will go and acquaint our brethren with thy *miraculous* conversion and election. Thou hast no more to do but to make thy will, and bequeath all thy wealth to our order."—"Bequeath, my father, must I die?"—"But to the world, brother, to live with us."—"But I have nothing to bequeath."—"Leave that to us. "Do you only give all your fortune, in the hands of your brother, to our society, in consequence your admission; and let us find that fortune. I go. The bell rings for vespers. I shall send our notary to you; and when that is done, we will restore our exhausted spirits with a slight repast in the refectory, where I will introduce thee to our brethren."

In a word, all things were executed, and the new brother admitted in proper time into the order, of which he has since risen to be of the brightest ornaments. And the judge, to avoid the imputation of heresy, which his implied doubt of the church's sanctuary had given my master the hint of, was glad to pay half his wealth to the society, as the fortune of his pious brother.

Soon after this affair was thus happily completed, my master, that he might openly show his adoration of *me* to the world, had me made into a crucifix, in which shape I was fastened to his rosary, and there publicly received that adoration from the knee, which before was paid me only in the heart.—A repetition of all the occurrences I saw in the service of this master would be unnecessary, as the two I have related give a general idea of them.

CHAPTER X.

I WAS heartily sick of such a scene, when the time came for sending me into these parts of the world, where scarcity enhances my value, and makes my power more extensive. There being a war between Spain and England, at that time, *about a liberty of cutting sticks upon a desert shore*, it was necessary to secure a safe passage for the treasure, by establishing a right understanding with the commander of an English man of war, which was cruising in those seas. It fell to my lot to go on this errand in the shape of a doubloon, into which I was cast,

to save the profanation which a crucifix must suffer in the hands of heretics.

There was some little address requisite to conduct this affair with the captain, in such a manner as to keep it secret from his officers, to gain all of whom would have been too expensive; beside that he never would trust his *sacred* honour to the fidelity of so many. But this was readily adjusted. The refinements of modern politeness having softened the natural ferocity of a state of war, and admitting an intercourse of courtesy between parties who profess to seek each other's destruction, the Spanish governor sent out a boat, with his compliments to the English captain, with a large supply of fresh provisions, fruits, wine, &c.

This necessarily produced a return of civility from the well bred captain; and in this intercourse were the terms of his connivance settled, as the seal of which I was delivered to him, among a very large number of my fellows, who honorably, punctual to his promise, at the appointed time, sailed away from that station, in quest of some ships of the enemy's which he expected to meet elsewhere, and did not return till the Spanish treasure was beyond his reach.

As this was a compliment of great consequence to the Spaniards, the captain had been so handsomely considered for it, that his desires were satisfied, and he only wished to be safe at home, to enjoy the wealth he had so happily acquired. Often would he take me out, (for the beauty of my new impression had struck his eye, and gained me the honor of being kept in his purse) often, I say, would he take me out of his purse, and, gazing on me till his eyes watered; "O thou end of all my toils and dangers!" would he say, "thou crown of all my hopes! now I have obtained thee I am content! Let others seek that phantom glory, I have in thee more solid reward, for which I always sought, nor shall any thing tempt me to hazard being separated from thee." A resolution which he had an opportunity of showing in all its strength a few days after, when a ship appeared, which he thought to be a Spanish man of war.

As ours was a ship of force, and all the officers, except the captain, were very poor; and as the Spanish ships are always richly laden with treasure in those seas, the crew was in the highest spirits at this sight, and made every thing ready to attack her with the most eager alacrity. But the case was quite different with the captain. He was now as rich as he desired, and dreaded the loss of that wealth which he had so long laboured for. He, therefore, retired into his cabin, while the lieutenants were *clearing ship*, and taking me out of his purse, with a look of tenderness that brought the tears into his eyes,

"and shall I hazard the loss of thee," he cried, "the object, the reward of a life of toil and danger? Shall I sacrifice the only good of life to that chimera honour? to that bubble, lighter than air, and more variable than the wind, the interest of my country? What is honour without wealth? What is a country to him who has nothing in it? Let the poor fight for money, I have enough; let the ambitious fight for glory, I despise the empty name. Let those who have, property in their country fight for it, I have none, nor can have, of its blessings, without thee; and therefore will not venture thy loss for any such vain considerations."

As soon as he had formed this prudent resolution, he clasped me to his heart, kissed me, and returned me into his purse, just as the lieutenant came into tell him, they could now make the ship, which must be vastly rich, she was so deep in the water. My master made no reply, but, taking a telescope in his hand, he went upon the quarter deck, and viewing her for some time, with great apparent earnestness, "you are all mistaken," said he, "in that ship. Rich indeed! and so she may remain for us. That ship is a first rate man of war by her size: and as for her depth in the water, she is only brought down by her guns, which are fifty two pounders at least. *Put about* the ship, and make all sail possible from her. I am answerable for his majesty's ship committed to my care, and will not sacrifice her against such odds. Her weight of metal would blow us out of the water. Beside, I have a packet on board, and must not go out of my way: *about ship* and away directly I say."

The officers stood aghast at this speech, that disappointed all their golden hopes. They urged, they beseeched, they remonstrated, that it was impossible she could be what he said: they insisted that the color of her sails, and the heaviness of her going, proved her to be a ship of trade that had been long at sea; and as for her bulk, it only encouraged them to hope she would prove the better prize, as all the ships that carry the treasure are very large; that they had observed they wronged her so much, they could go round her if they pleased; and begged only that they might be permitted to take a nearer view of her, which they were confident would prove her to be what they said. They alledged the opportunity of making all their fortunes; the honor, the interest of their country. They begged, swore, stormed, and wept; but all in vain. The captain had taken his resolution; and would vouchsafe no other answer than a repetition of what he had said before, "That he was accountable for his majesty's ship, and would not hazard her, to gratify them: beside, the delay of the packet he had on board might be of worse consequence than the taking of such a ship,

(should she even be what they said, though he was certain to the contrary) would make amends for. And that, as to going nearer to her, the length of her guns would enable them to drive every shot through and through his ship, at a distance that his could never reach her from; though, if they should be mad enough to engage her, his small shot could never pierce such mountains of timber as her sides were barricaded with." And so, as his power was absolute, they were obliged to submit, and *off he sheered*.

It is impossible to describe the distraction which this affair threw our ship into. The officers acted all the inconsistent outrages of madness. The men chewed the quid, damned their eyes and limbs for their bad luck, and went to work as usual; while several poor sick wretches, whose spirits had been so raised by the hopes of such a prize, that they had forgotten their complaints, and exerted all their strength, to assist in the engagement, now sunk under the weight of the disappointment, and crawled back, many of them to die in their hammocks.

But the captain had carried his point, and regarded nothing else: though indeed he was somewhat disconcerted a few days after, when he learned from another ship, that she really was a register ship of immense value, and so weakened by hard weather and sickness, that she could not have attempted any resistance, but had prepared to *strike* the moment she saw us. This information added such fuel to the rage that inflamed the officers before, that all intercourse between them and their captain was entirely broken off, so that I became his sole companion.

This lasted all the while we were at a distance from England, but, as we drew near home, the captain's stiffness began to bend, and he made several advances to a reconciliation and general amnesty; as he could not but feel some apprehensions for his conduct from his superiors. But all was in vain. The thought of returning in poverty, instead of that wealth which he had disappointed them of, kept up their resentments, and they determined to complain, if only for the satisfaction of revenge.

This convinced my master, that methods must be taken to obviate their attempts, or he might run a greater hazard at home than he had intended to avoid abroad. He therefore prudently concluded, that the same argument which had been so powerful with himself, would be the most effectual to vindicate what he had done with others, and that it would be better to share the spoil, than risk the loss of all.

For this intent, as soon as he arrived in England, he took me from his purse once more, and looking earnestly at me for some moments, "We must part," said he, with a sigh, "we must part! but I hope to good purpose. Thou only wast the cause of that conduct which now gives me fear; exert therefore thy influence equally, where I now send thee, and thou wilt excuse my fault, if it is one." Tears, at the thought of losing me, here choked his utterance. He gave me a last kiss, and sent me directly away, in company with a considerable number more, to mediate his peace.

CHAPTER XL

As the delicate nature of this transaction required some address, he entrusted the management of it to his purser, who had convinced him, by many instances, of his sagacity in the methods of obtaining an influence over the great.

As soon as my new master arrived in London, his first care was to execute the commission for which we had been given to him; but the person, to whom his application was to be made, happened to be out of town for a few days, that he might not lose any time, he proceeded to settle some affairs of his own; in the course of which, I had an opportunity of seeing into some part of the secrets of his mysterious business.

The professed motive for his coming to town, was to settle his own, and pass his captain's accounts, between which there was a connexion not necessary to be known to any other: for though my late master did not think it consistent with his dignity to be too familiar with his officers, and generally slighted their opinion, if only to shew his own superiority and keep them at a proper distance, with him and his purser the case was quite otherwise; the best understanding always subsisting between them, and every affair being concerted with the greatest harmony, to their mutual advantage: an agreement, which, beside the comfort and convenience of it to themselves, had this happy influence over the rest of the ship's company, that it kept them, if not easy, at least quiet, from all murmurings, and complaints of bad provisions, short weights, and such like imaginary grievances, which the restless temper of seamen is too apt to make the cause of much trouble to the purser, and disturbance to the captain, when these happen not to agree between themselves. But, as the contrary was the case here, their common interest animated the assiduity of my master, and made him go directly to the several officers and contractors, with whom his business lay, to prepare every thing in proper order for public inspection.

On my first going to these public offices, every thing gave me pleasure. There was such an appearance of regularity in all the proceedings, of ease and affluence in the officers, that I could not help saying to myself, "Happy state, whose meanest servants are gentlemen! whose business is reduced to a system, above danger of confusion or abuse!" But a nearer view shewed things in another light. The first person my master went to, was the gentleman who supplied him with those kinds of cloathing for the seamen, which are by these merry poor fellows emphatically called *slops*. As he was just going to dinner, my master accepted of his invitation, and sat down with him. A round or two of loyal toasts, to the success of the navy, and continuance of the war, having washed down their fare, and refreshed their spirits after the fatigue of a full meal, they proceeded to business. "I come, sir," said my master, "to settle the account of the last cruize. Here it is: you see most of the articles have gone off pretty well: but I must tell you, that you are more obliged to some of your friends for that, than you are aware of perhaps; for if I had not prevailed on the captain, to let the alehouse keepers and gin women come on board, and keep the slop sellers off, when the men received their pay, on going out, you would have had but a blank list of it. But, by this management, the fellows spent all their money in drink, and then necessity drove them to me for clothes."

"Here is to the captain's good health," answered the other, "and that I may soon see him at the head of the navy: I am very much obliged to you and him, and shall consider your friendship properly. But is there no way of preventing those peddlars from intruding thus upon us? I am resolved I will try: I believe I can make an interest, you understand me, that will procure me an order to exclude them: at least, if I cannot do that, I will insist on raising my terms; for every branch of business is now so loaded with presents and perquisites, that there is scarce any thing to be got. A man who goes to a public office, to receive money, runs the gantlet through so many of them, that, if he does not make up his accounts in a very masterly manner indeed, he will have but little to shew for his pains in the end." "Very true," replied my master, "I have had experience of what you say, this very morning.—You know it is some years since I have been in town before: I was therefore quite surprized at the gay appearance of every clerk in the offices. Our midshipmen, on the paying off of a ship, are nothing to them: So! thought I to myself: this is very well! Such fine gentlemen as these will never stoop to take the little perquisites which their shabby predecessors were

so eager for: they cannot want them. Accordingly, as soon as I had done my business, I was preparing to make an handsome speech, and a leg, and so walk off; but I was soon undeceived; and found, to my no small astonishment, that, if the case was altered, it was no way for the better for me; the present fine gentlemen being to the full as rapacious as the former shabby fellows, and with this addition to the evil, that their expectations were raised, in proportion to their appearance, so that they must have a crown, where the others were satisfied with a shilling."

"And how can it be otherwise," returned the other, "while the principals set them such an example of extravagance, and enforce obedience to it in the manner they do: for though their own exorbitant salaries enable them to live with the luxury of aldermen at home, and make the appearance of courtiers abroad, how can they think that their hackney underlings shall be able to change their dress with the court, and appear with all the precise foppery of pretty fellows, if they have not clandestine ways of getting money: and that this is the case, I can give you an instance not to be contradicted.

"Perhaps you may remember a little boy that ran about the house here, when you were in town last. His mother was servant to my first wife: you cannot have forgotten black eyed Nan:—who was the father is nothing to my story, but I took care of the boy. When he grew up I thought the best thing I could do for him was to get him into one of the public offices, for he was too soft for my own business, and this I imagined would sharpen him, and fifty pounds a year keep him from being an expense to me. Accordingly, I got him admitted as an additional clerk, in this busy time; and, that his appearance should not shame my recommendation, I added a London made suit to his country wardrobe, which I thought good enough for him to wear every day.

"Well—thus equipped, to the office he went, as good looking a lad as ever came from a Yorkshire academy, which had been the height of his education. But I soon found that I had been out in my reckoning; for going with him to introduce him to the head clerk, whom I had before spoken properly to in his behalf, I found the whole office in deep mourning, which, as it had been ordered only for the court and was to hold out but a fortnight longer, I had never thought of dressing him in; but I soon found that I had not a proper opinion of the consequence of the place; for the head clerk gave me a friendly hint, that it was expected that all the clerks in his majesty's offices should show the decent respect of conforming to the dress of the court on these solemn occasions.—I could not help exclaiming,

I believe a little too shortly—What, sir! upon a salary of fifty pounds a year?—‘Sir,’ replied he, ‘nobody is forced to take that salary; and they who do not like the rules of the office are at liberty to leave it,’ and then turned off upon his heel. ‘I beg your pardon, sir,’ said I, seeing my error, ‘it was an oversight of mine; but it shall be amended.’—‘The sooner the better, sir,’ answered he, ‘for his lordship will be in the office to-morrow, and he must not see any thing so irregular—and pray, sir,’ turning to the lad, ‘get that fleece on your head shorn a little, (his hair flowed down, in modest ringlets, on his shoulders) and strive to be something like a gentleman.’

“I saw it was in vain to say any thing, and so took the boy away with me; and had him equipped, next day, in all the fashionable trappings of woe, with his hair shorn indeed, and tied up in a bag, by a French barber; for I would not stand for a trifle when my hand was in; and then went with him myself; being desirous to see how he would be received in his new appearance. But, alas! I had forgotten that indispensable article of a gentleman’s dress, a sword, which I was therefore obliged to send out for directly. In a fortnight’s time, the order for the court’s going into second mourning put me to the same expense over again: for the rules of decency were not to be dispensed with; and then, in a month after, it was as necessary to trim his light grey frock with a silver edging of coxcomb, that he might not appear worse than his fellows; all which, with many other as necessary *et ceteras*, by the end of the first quarter, consumed his year’s salary.

“This enraged me to that degree, that I was going to take him away directly; but the boy had by this time got some insight into the ways of the place, and prevented me, by saying, that if I would try, but for another quarter, he was satisfied that his perquisites would more than defray all such expenses; and so I find they do; for, though he is now as smart well dressed a young fellow as any about town, he has never since troubled me for a shilling: nay, more than all this, he assures me, there are some of his fellow clerks who keep footmen and horses, and have routs and concerts at their houses, as regularly as people of the first rank; and all by the perquisites of a place of fifty pounds a year.

“Now as all those perquisites are draw backs upon us, as I said before, we cannot carry on the business on the usual terms, if we do not bring up our loss in the quality of the goods; for it would be absurd to expect, that we should lower our living to let such fellows run away with the profit of our industry.—In short, my wife’s chariot shall not be put down, nor will I deny myself a bottle of claret to give you, or any other friend,

to save all the seamen in Britain from perishing with cold: Charity begins at home; I will insist upon having those pedlars prevented from interloping upon our trade; and so, sir, my service to you."

CHAPTER XII

Mr master had heard him out, though not with the greatest patience, and now taking the opportunity of his stopping to drink, "All this may be true," said he, "and what you propose might possibly have been done, and with the effect you desire, some time ago; but matters are altered a good deal, at present, both among the gentlemen of the navy, and here too as I am told. and indeed, in respect to this affair, those things are made so infamously bad, and rated so high, that no body can speak in the defence of them; nay, it even goes almost against my own conscience to utter them; for only think with yourself, what a barefaced imposition it is, to make a poor wretch pay seven shillings for a coarse rotten jacket, when even a jew shall sell him a sound one, and of finer stuff, for four and sixpence; and every thing else at the same rate. In short, this point is so overstrained, that it will probably overturn the whole trade, in the end; for several of the captains are so provoked at it, that they take every method they can to prevent the men from taking up any thing from us; particularly that which I hinted before, of keeping off the alehouse keepers, and such people, and encouraging *shop sellers* to come on board, when the men are paying; by which means they buy good comfortable clothes, at half the price of our rotten trash. Indeed, one of them went so far, as to buy in a parcel of good shoes, at his own expense, and make a present of a pair a piece to all his *top men*, when they were going out on cruise; as they had spent their money, and could not buy for themselves; and our shoes were so bad, that the first time they went aloft with them, after they were wet, the *rattlings* tore them all to pieces; so that it was a common thing to see a man come down bare footed, who had gone up with a new pair of shoes on. Though it is but just to comfort you, with an account of the return which he met for his kindness, which was no less than a *round robin** to the lords of the admiralty, for his refusing to let them go ashore, and spend their money, in the same manner, next time they came in."

* The name that seamen call their complaints against their captains; it is taken from the manner of their signing them, which is in a circle, so that there is no knowing who signs first.

"And such a return may their officiousness always meet," replied the other, "for meddling with matters which do not concern them. Cannot they be content with their own large gains, without interfering to hinder others? But I see how it is: the spirit of patriotism has got into them too, forsooth, and they must be shewing their regard to the public! What an evil effect will the bad example of one man have! There was a time, when they would not have dared to do this. To say the truth, my friend, this is not the first alarm we have received on this head; though what to do about it, we cannot tell. Indeed, I believe we must even mend our hands; which, as half a loaf is better than no bread, hard as it is upon us, is preferable to losing the trade quite; in the mean time, I am obliged to you and your captain for your friendship, and hope you will accept of this return." They then proceeded to settle their accounts, as soon as which were finished, my master took his leave, and went on with his business, which was exactly of the same nature, and concluded in the same way, with every person whom he dealt with.

As soon as these transactions were ended, his next care was to pass his captain's accounts, which he also succeeded in, without any difficulty, though for this he was more indebted to the chance of a lucky minute, than he had apprehended. For they were no sooner closed, than an affair happened that gave a turn, entirely new, to the whole course of business, in that channel.

When the accounts of the next captain came to be examined, the clerk glancing his eye cursorily over them, in the usual manner, on looking at the amount, "There must be some mistake here," said he—"How so, sir," said the captain, who was present; "let me look at the account, if you please. No, sir, there is no mistake, I believe.—Pray where do you mean?"—"In the casting it up, sir," answered the clerk, "you see, the amount is made to be but eight hundred pounds."—"Nor should it be more," replied the captain, "I summed up the account myself, and these figures are of my own writing."—"How can that possibly be, sir," returned the clerk in a surprise, "but eight hundred pounds for all the repairs, *wear and tear*, of a man of war, on such a station, for four years! I suppose then, sir, the ship had a thorough repair going out, and wants the like now! To be sure, it can be done better and cheaper here, than abroad, and therefore you were in the right to bring her home to get it."—"Not at all, sir," added the captain, "that was not the case, she had no thorough repair going out, and is come home in better order than she went, as this return of the officers of the yard shews."—"Good God! Sir, how did you manage?"—"To the best of my judgment, sir; I

laid out nothing but what I thought necessary, and I charged nothing but what I laid out: I mean not to arraign the conduct of others; I only speak for myself. In these cases, I look upon a man as a steward to the public; and I should think it as great dishonesty to betray, or break that trust, as to wrong a private person."

This speech was heard with astonishment, and returned with a cold compliment, as it came too home to many to meet general approbation; however, the affair necessarily had an effect not very agreeable to some present; for, the next captain's accounts arising to near four times the sum of the last, such an immediate precedent made the difference so glaring, that it was impossible to avoid putting a stop to them, and so he was mulcted his whole four years pay: though ours, which had been still higher, had gone off smoothly, and without the least remark.

My master having concluded this affair so happily, proceeded next on the great cause of his coming to town; in which, with our assistance, he labored so successfully, that the captain's *mistake* met only a gentle reprimand.

I here came into the possession of a new master, and immediately after changed my Spanish appearance for the fashion of the country, and, in the shape of a *GUINEA*, entered into the most extensive state of sublunary influence, becoming the price of every name, that is respected under heaven.

CHAPTER XIII.

I am now entering upon a stage, where the scenes are so various, and so quickly changed, that it will require your strictest attention to keep pace with my relation. But to make this the easier to you, and to disincumber your surprize from doubts, at my repeating the past lives of persons, in whose possession I have been but a few moments, I must premise to you, that our knowledge is very different from that of men. I have told you, that we know all things intuitively, without the trouble, delay, and errors of discourse or reasoning. I must now further inform you, that this intuition extends not only to the present face of things, but also has retrospect to the whole series of their existence, from its first beginning: the concatenation between cause and effect being so plain to our eyes, that let us but see any one event of the life of a man, and we immediately know every particular that preceded it.

As to futurity indeed, it is not yet determined how far forward we can look into that: some allowing us to have the same power of foresight as we have of retrospect; which was the

opinion that supported the credit of oracles in former days.— But that notion is now exploded; and men argue, that our foresight extends only to natural causes and effects; but in the actions of man, his free will so often breaks that order, that it is impossible for us to know this moment how he will act the next, from any observation of the past. And they think they prove their argument by this, that if spirits could foreknow all a man's actions, it would spare them the trouble of tempting him to any particular ones. But this by the bye! for as I shall confine my narrative to matters already past, without ever foretelling any thing, it is not necessary for me to determine a question, that opens such a field for the guesses of the learned. But to return to my story.

From the mint, where I put on the shape of a guinea, I was sent to the bank, where the pleasure I had felt at the beauty and convenience of my new figure was considerably cooled, at my being thrown into so large a heap, as took away all my particular consequence, and seemed to threaten a long state of inactivity, before it might come to my turn to be brought into action. But I soon found myself agreeably mistaken, and that the circulation there was too quick to admit of such delay: for I was that very day paid out to a noble lord, in his pension from the ministry.

It was about two in the afternoon, when I was brought to his lordship's levee, where the grandeur of his looks, and the magnificence of every thing about him, made me so pleased with my situation, that I thought I could be satisfied to fix my abode with him for some time.

He was just arisen, and seated at the fire, leaning on a writing table covered with green velvet, on which lay some books open, and several letters which he had just broke the seals off, and was beginning to read, while a female servant, beautiful as Hebe, poured out his tea at a side board, and a page, like Ganymede, handed it to him.

In this easy indifference he sat, casting an eye upon a book, or reading a paragraph in a letter, between every sip of his breakfast, when I was laid upon his table by his steward, with these words,—“Two hundred, my lord.”—“Two hundred,” replied his lordship, “the order was for five hundred!”—“But my lord, the butcher, the baker!”—“*What are these wretches to me! Is not my whole estate sufficient for them?*” “My lord, there is not a shilling to be got from your tenants, the times are so bad and the taxes so high, and an ounce of provisions could not be had.”—“*Then you might have all fasted! I must have money for this evening; I am engaged in a PARTY, and cannot be off.*”—“My lord, your lordship's taylor desired me to speak to you.

he is to appear before his commissioners to morrow, and begs"—“What can I do, I would relieve him if I could, but I have not money for myself: I cannot, will not do without five hundred more this evening, get it where or how you will.”—My lord, I was thinking to apply to Mr. Discount, the scrivener; but he said the last time, that he would lend no more on that estate, without the immediate power of cutting the timber.”—Well, damn him, let him have it, though it will not be fit to cut these ten years; and do you hear, get me a thousand to day.”—“A thousand, my lord! you said five hundred; I am afraid he will think a thousand too much!” “Then he shall never have it; let me do as I will; do not I know that the timber is worth twice as much this moment if I could wait to set it to sale? I will not be imposed on by the rascal: I’ll go myself to my neighbour Worthland directly; he is a man of honor, and will be above taking advantage though I did oppose his election.”—“As your lordship pleases for that. But then, perhaps, Mr. Discount will call in all his money, if he saw you put yourself into other hands; beside, I am not certain that he will refuse, and therefore I should think it better to try him first; you may do this after. Though I must take the liberty to say, I should be sorry to see your lordship stoop to Sir John Worthland, after all the expense you have been at to give him trouble. For to be sure he would boast of it in the country, if it were only to make you look little, and prevent your opposing him again.”—“Why there may be something in that: and therefore see what is to be done with Discount; but I must have the thousand at any rate, five hundred of which give to poor Buckram; and bring me the other as soon as possible, for I am in haste out.”—“Then your lordship had better sign this deed first, to save the time of coming back again if he should do it.”—“Ay, let me see it; there: and make haste.”—And then turning to his page, “Reach me that paper, this pen is so good it tempts me to write a letter, while I wait for Poundage’s return.” And so humming a new tune, he went on with breakfast without the least concern.

You are so great a stranger to the ways of that part of the world which deals in money matters, that you will be surprised when I tell you, that, while this Mr. Poundage brought me from the Bank, he called upon Mr. Discount and brought him to his lord’s to do his business.

But you must not imagine this was to lend his lordship money. Nothing less. It was only to appear as the nominal lender of his lordship’s own money, which Poundage had that very morning received from some of his tenants in the country, and which, if he could not bring it in better, he meant to replace

with part of the price of the timber, which he was to buy in Discounts name, who was a creature of his own.

So remarkable a transaction gave me a curiosity to take a view of Poundage's life, the main lines of which I will just touch over, while you may think him gone for the money, and his lordship dressing for his engagement.

CHAPTER XIV.

MR. THOMAS POUNDAGE was the offspring of a gypsy, who had left him in the straw he was born on, in an old barn, near his lordship's fathers; his weakness and deformity making her not think him worth the trouble of carrying away.

The old lord himself happening to be the first who heard his cries, as he was riding by, took compassion on the little helpless wretch, and ordered him to be taken care of at his own expense, and not sent to the parish.

Such an uncommon instance of charity was immediately attributed to a tender motive: a suspicion, however injurious to his lordship, so advantageous to the foundling, that it doubled the care and attendance on him, and made him appear of such consequence, that Mr. Thomas Poundage himself, his lordship's steward, condescended to stand god father for him, and gave him his own name. As Master Tommy grew up, he shewed all the sharpness and cunning of his race, which old Poundage representing to his lord, as a capacity for learning, he was put to the best schools; and being of the same age with his lordship's eldest son, his present master, was settled as an humble companion and attendant upon him; in which station, the pliancy of his temper soon gained him his master's favour, as his secrecy and discretion did his confidence; no service appearing too difficult or mean for his undertaking, to please his master, especially in the mysteries of intrigue; nor a look ever betraying his success.

These services naturally produced an intimacy, that opened to him all his master's secrets, and gave him such consequence with him, that, upon the death of his father, old Poundage was superannuated upon a pension, and the place given to him, in which he had behaved himself so judiciously, that in about ten years he had amassed so large a fortune, as to be able to supply his master's wants, (with the assistance of his own money sometimes) without the scandal of exposing them to any other: a service that amply recompensed, to his lordship's honour, whatever prejudice it may be supposed to do his affairs.

It is true, his supplanting his god father and benefactor, old Poundage, had not met with the approbation of such as were not well acquainted with the world, and particularly, as the old gentleman, in his rage, had accounted for all his kindness to him, by owning a relation, which he had before strove to fix upon his lord, by many plain insinuations, though he now said he had long before revealed to his ungrateful son the secret of his birth.

However, if he had communicated this secret, our son of fortune had kept it so well, that he could now deny it with safety; nor had he profited so little by his fathers example, as to be moved with a suggestion that evidently appeared, however true it might be in itself, to spring at that time from resentment. And as he could not expect to reap any great advantage from being acknowledged for the spurious son of one who had many legitimate children to inherit his fortune, he thought it better to confirm the former opinion, by his slights of the claim of Poundage, and, since he must be the bastard of one of them, chose the lord before his servant.

But to return to my master.—He was dressed by that time Poundage came back with the money, when taking the five hundred for his own use, he went to his appointment.

As to the other five hundred; which he had ordered to be paid to his taylor, for fear of the wretch's applying to the lord himself, in his despair, Poundage did not send for him, and, in compassion to his distress, advanced him four hundred pounds of his own money, for he had not a shilling of his lord's in his hands; for which piece of service he desired no other consideration, than a receipt for five hundred pounds, though it might be so long before he could get it back, that he expected to be a loser by his friendship, which Mr. Buckram need not, as he could bring it up in his next bill.—Of this I came to the knowledge some time after, in the course of my circulation.

It was five o'clock, and dinner just serving up, when my lord joined his company. At dinner, and during the reign of the bottle for a couple of hours after, the conversation turned upon all the polite topics of the times, wherein there could be no long disputes, as every difference in opinion was immediately determined by a bet, the supreme decision of peace, war, religion, and law.—But this dissipated *piddling* soon gave way to the serious business of the evening, to which they all adjourned with an intention and anxiety worthy of the consequence at stake.

It is impossible to give you any idea of this scene, in which every moment produced such sudden transitions from despair to exultation, from shouts of joy to the most blasphemous exe-

crations of their very being, on the vicissitudes in the momentary fortunes of the actors, that the very recollection of it is a pain even to me.

However, it made no such impression upon them; but they continued at it till about six in the *morning*, when they retired for the *night*.

In the course of the *evening*, I often went the circuit of the whole company round, and at length was carried home by a new master. But, before I say any thing of him, I must give you a few slight sketches of the characters of some others of the company, and particularly of my late lord, in whose whole appearance and behaviour there was something so extraordinary.

There is scarce a stronger instance of the tyranny of avarice over the heart of a man, than the passion for play, which now is so general and prevalent, as to seem in a manner to have drowned every other. The tenderest, the strongest connections of friendship and nature, yield to the force of this resistless infatuation. The persons who esteem each other most in the world this moment, no sooner sitting down to this decision of fate, than they labour for each other's ruin, with all the assiduity and eagerness of the most inveterate hatred and revenge.

Nor is this practice confined to those alone whom necessity may seem to stimulate to so desperate a resource; the richest are often the most infatuated with this passion, who possessing already more than they can enjoy, hazard that, and give themselves up a prey to anxiety, and often to despair, to indulge a fruitless desire for more.

Of this last class were most of the company, among whom my late lord had spent this evening: some few indeed there were whom this folly had reduced to the former, and necessitated to live by their experience in the art which had been their ruin.

CHAPTER XV.

I see your curiosity rise at the mention of so strange a scene as this must be. It is natural, and therefore shall be indulged. But, as all description must fall short of it, I shall represent it to you in perspective. Do you therefore resolve sense into imagination, a practice not uncommon with the philosophic mind, and to pure abstracted attention shall my words become things, and appear as visible to your eyes, as if they were purged with euphrasy and rue.

Observe now, at the head of the table, that heavy looking figure, whose saturnine complexion gives a solemnity to his appearance, even beyond his declining years. This man wore out the prime of his life in indigence and hardships, till chance, by one successful stroke in his business, gave him such a fortune, as was deemed sufficient merit to deserve nobility, and entitle him to one of the first employments in the state.

Sudden elevation makes a weak head giddy; the plain, good natured, cheerful man, is lost in the solemn proud peer; who is harder of access than his sovereign, and seems to value himself on having all the hours he has spent in cringing to the great, repaid tenfold in attendance upon him. As to the business of his office, the whole system of human politics is in general such a jumble of blundering and villainy; that I can seldom bring myself to bestow a moment's notice on it, so can say no more of his, than that the little attention and less capacity he has for it, may most probably give just occasion for all the murmurings that are against him.—But this was not the motive of my pointing him to you. It was his infatuation to the love of play, which makes him hazard that wealth which he so long felt the want of, in hopes of acquiring more, though he has already more than he can enjoy.

This has been an unsuccessful night with him. Observe how stupified he looks at his loss! extend the view but a few moments farther, and see how he sits down in the common hall of the tavern, among servants and chairmen, insensible of the impropriety of such a place, and unable to order his servants to carry him home: nor is it improbable that the scene he has just quitted may remain so strongly on his imagination to-morrow, that he may write down the rules of the game he has been playing at, instead of the orders of his office, as he has done once before.

Next to him, you see a short, ruddy, cheerful looking man. That is one of the deplorable instances of the evil of this preposterous passion. With every advantage of rank, abilities, and fortune, did that person set out in life. But, alas! soon was the prospect of his future happiness and grandeur overcast! soon did gaming reduce him not only to a necessity of prostituting his abilities to the prejudice of his country, but also of descending to every iniquitous mystery of the art to support his practice of it; for so bewitched is he to it, that he cannot resist, though he now can scarce get any person to play with him, his want of money and his skill in the whole art are so well known.

This has been a successful evening with him, as you may see by his extraordinary flow of spirits: not that his natural viva-

city ever fails him in the worst reverse of fortune. He has won a considerable part of the great losings of the person we have just been taken notice of; and though he has many demands upon him for every shilling of it, yet far from thinking of paying one of them, he is this moment planning new scenes of pleasure to consume it all, chusing to let his creditors all be bankrupt, or even to compound with them as a bankrupt himself, rather than deny his appetites their full gratification.

It is impossible to convey a just notion of such a complicated character, by any description; I shall therefore just mention one or two of his actions, from which you may, in some measure, form a judgment of the whole.

Having a pressing occasion, some time ago, for an hundred guineas, he applied to one of those necessary attendants of the great, who, at the moderate interest of five hundred per cent. are always ready to supply them with money to discharge their debts of honour. This friendly gentleman, being well acquainted with the character of the borrower, made many scruples to comply with his request, till at length he suffered himself to be prevailed upon conditionally, that, if the principal and premium were not paid in a week, he should receive a guinea as a further gratuity then and every time after, that he should demand his money, till it was paid. Accordingly, at the end of the week, he made his demand, and, as he expected, received his guinea, from which time, he took care to call upon him every second or third day, till he had received his money more than twice told, thus in single guineas, for forbearance; always timing his applications, when he saw his debtor engaged in company with persons, before whom he would not even enter into an expostulation, for fear of having the affair known, so that as soon as he saw him approach, without waiting to be asked, he used to pull out his purse, and, calling him to him, give him a guinea, to go and buy something for him; an errand the other sufficiently understood.

The constant repetition of this could not always escape observation, nor was the cause of it unsuspected by most of his acquaintance; some of whom happening to hint it to him one evening, when wine had taken all reserve, he, who was above being ashamed of any thing, honestly owned the whole transaction, and joined in the general laugh at his own folly: however, as the secret was now out, he resolved to submit to the imposition no longer; and the next time his friend came to wait upon him, instead of hurrying away, as before, he publicly entered into a discussion of his demand, and, as he could not attempt to deny his having received more than double what he had lent, the debt was adjudged by the company to be

sufficiently discharged; and as he was literally sent off, without his errand.

This story shews only the levity and inconsiderateness of his temper, and the distresses, in which they entangle him: but the following is of a blacker hue, and will prove, that he is capable of doing any thing to extricate himself from those distresses, and provide for the gratification of his passions.

Not very long ago, a young gentleman who had a military turn, collected the whole of his small fortune, to purchase himself a commission in the army. Having lodged his money in the hands of his agent, who, for the convenience of making use of it, and to enhance the price of his own trouble, was in no haste to dispatch the affair, he had made an excursion to the country town, in which this gentleman's seat was, and where he happened to be at that time.

As the hospitality of his temper made his house open to every stranger, who had the appearance of a gentleman, the young soldier soon became acquainted with him, and in return for the friendship for which he mistook the general affability of his conversation, and to display his own importance, told him his present situation, and the method he had taken to procure success to his hopes of a truncheon. His friend expressed the strongest approbation of his spirit, and encouraged his hopes, but told him that he had chosen the worst way of entering into the army, as the sum of money, which he had given the agent, to purchase him only a pair of colors, applied properly to some of the persons in office, and backed by good interest, would not only procure him a cornetcy of horse, at present, which was of three times that value, but would also establish such an interest for him, as should greatly accelerate his rise to still higher promotions. Struck with such a promising prospect as this speech opened to him, the young gentleman answered, that he was sensible of the truth of what the other said, but that it was his unhappiness to have had no friend to direct him how to apply his money properly, much less to back him afterward. "That's very hard," replied his friend, "I wish I had known you sooner." This hint was enough: the young gentleman, fired with such flattering hopes, flew directly to town, and, finding that his agent had not yet concluded the purchase for him, took his money out of his hands, and returning to the country, in the confidence of his heart, went and presented it to his friend, throwing himself entirely upon his patronage and protection.

It is probable, that, when this gentleman began the discourse which gave occasion to this action, he meant no more by it, than to display his own judgment and interest, without any

farther design; but the sight of five hundred pounds was a temptation he could not resist. He therefore, with seeming surprize and reluctance, received the money, and took the young gentleman into his care.

For some time he fed him with hopes of immediate success; but, his impatience beginning to grow troublesome, upon his return to town, for the winter, he gave him to understand "That he was offended at his importunity: that, since he had undertaken to serve him, he would do it as soon as he could; but that he need not give himself the trouble of calling upon him any more, as he would receive sufficient notice of his success in the public papers."—Saying which words, he left him.

Thunder struck at this speech, the young gentleman withdrew, and, meeting one of his acquaintance, informed him of what had happened. This person, who was perfectly acquainted with the gentleman's character, saw immediately into the whole affair, and explained the imposition to him. This made him mad; he returned directly to demand his money, but was denied admittance, nor would his letters even be received by the porter. His case was now desperate; while he had paid attendance upon his patron, he had exhausted his means of subsistence to the last mite, so that he now was in want of a morsel of bread. In this situation a moment was not to be lost; and, luckily, his despair suggested to him the only means that could possibly have procured him redress. He drew up a state of his case in a very few words, and, putting on the best suit of clothes he had left, went the very next day to court, where, in sight of his patron, he bent his knee to his sovereign, and presented it to him. Something particular in his air and manner struck the monarch's notice; he read the petition; and then reached it to this gentleman, in whose altered countenance he soon read the truth of the contents: turning therefore from him, with a look of ineffable reproof and contempt, he ordered the secretary at war to make out a commission for the young gentleman that very day, and from that hour has never held the other in the least degree of esteem, or favor; but he is insensible to such disgrace, and while he can gratify his passions, in the manner you see at present, cares not what the world thinks or says of him.

Opposite to him, on the other side of the table, observe an uncommonly large boned bulky man: that is one of the instances of the insufficiency and weakness of human laws, which striving to remedy one evil, often make way for a greater. That man is now advanced to the foremost rank of the militia list, merely by seniority! A grievous abuse of that institution, which, to prevent favor from advancing its minions

over friendless merit, ordains, that no senior officer shall serve under his junior; but now, by the natural force of human perversion, this well designed regulation is made a pretext for giving command to such as have no other claim to it, than (what should indeed incapacitate them) old age; and so keeping back the advance, and damping the ardor of youth.

As there is no man without some particular ambition, his has taken a turn, which perhaps you may think the most remote from his profession of a soldier, pictures. Painting is the sole object of his admiration, the only knowledge he values himself upon. Tell him of a siege, or a battle, an attack or a retreat, conducted with the greatest skill, and he hears you unmoved, nor will interrupt your account with a single question: but name Rembrandt or Titian, and he immediately gives you a dissertation on their excellencies, and the difference of their schools! Tell him but of a sale of pictures, on the day fixed for a review, and, if he is forced to feign sickness to excuse his attendance in the field, he will be at it.

Such absurd passions are always the objects of artifice and imposition. An ingenious painter of this country, not very long since, whose works would have been a credit to the best of foreign schools, but were despised at home, bethought himself of a way to turn this person's foible to some advantage. He made some designs, landscapes, and other drawings, in the manner of some of the greatest of the ancient Italian masters, whose names he marked upon the backs of them, in the characters of their times, and, giving them the cast of age, made them up in an Italian chest, and, by the assistance of a captain of a ship, had them entered at the custom house, as directly from Italy, and consigned to a stranger, as from a friend there, to be disposed of in London.

The report instantly reached this lover of *virtu*, who was so ravished with the thought of gaining such a treasure, that he flew to the place, and, being convinced by his judgment of the authenticity of them, bought them altogether for a very large sum, but far short of their real value, had they been to be disposed of by a person acquainted with it.

Though this success was very pleasing, and useful to the painter, he did not stop here. This person had some way taken a dislike to him, which he indulged by running down his work. This therefore was an opportunity for revenge not to be missed. He let him boast of his acquisition in all companies, and display his judgment in proving them to be the genuine productions of those great masters, by criticisms which none but a connoisseur could make: but then, as soon as the whole affair was so public, that there was no denying it, what does the in-

censed artist but produce the counterparts of them all, which he had kept for the occasion, so like as not possibly to be known asunder, and unravelled the whole affair; taking care only to keep himself clear of the law, by saying, that he had sold those things as of no value, at a very small price to a Jew.

This was a severe stroke! It overturned the only reputation which he had even an ambition of, and robbed him of a large sum of money beside; to recover which loss, and divert the chagrin of the whole deceit, he has recourse to play, which he follows with the eagerness you see.

But his is not the only absurd passion that strikes the notice of an accurate observer of mankind. The person on his right hand was born in the first rank of the state, but by some unlucky mistake, the qualifications which fell to his share belonged to one of the lowest classes of mechanics. While others of his rank are marshalling armies, and planning conquest, correcting the abuses, or studying to rise upon the ruins of the state, his utmost ambition is to cut out a buckskin to advantage, and be reckoned the best breeches maker of his time.—Harmless as such an humble turn may seem, it involves the noble artist in many whimsical distresses.

His passion for breeches making is so strong, that he never sits near any person, but his hand is immediately, and unpremeditatedly, applied to his thigh, which he has no sooner stroked down two or three times, than he thinks he conceives the size and shape of it so exactly, that he can completely fit it, without the trouble of taking any other measure; and accordingly never fails to introduce a dissertation on the art, which he concludes with the demonstrative proof of his skill, of offering to make a present of a pair of his own making. The advantage of such an offer, and the pleasure of encouraging so illustrious a mechanic, make his presents always accepted; so that he has generally the most business of any one of the trade, though some accidents have happened, that have almost made him afraid to pursue such an indiscriminate method of soliciting custom.

Happening some time ago, in a very large company, to sit near a young gentleman, whose delicate complexion had brought him, though most unjustly, under a suspicion of indulging unnatural passions, he applied his hand to the gentleman's thigh, and began to feel it all over, to take measure of it, according to his custom. The gentleman, who was not ignorant of the imputation he lay under, and therefore was more quickly sensible of every thing that might possibly seem to allude to it, thought this application to his thigh was meant either to tempt, or insult him, for he had been informed that

those wretches often make their infamous addresses in this manner, and was enraged at it to such a degree, that, forgetting all respect to the company present, and to the rank of his supposed lover, he felled the poor breeches maker to the ground, and, starting from his chair, drew his sword, and would have run him through the body, had not his arm been happily seized by the gentleman who sat next him.

It is not easy to describe the astonishment of the company at such an outrage, which they could attribute to nothing but phrenzy; but the gentleman soon undeceived them, "Infamous, unnatural wretch!" exclaimed he, as soon as rage permitted him utterance, "I'll make you know, that I am not an object for your brutal passions. I have exposed you here; but your infamy shall not be confined to this company; I'll publish it to all the world. Unhand-me, gentlemen, and let me wash off the disgrace of such an attempt with the monster's blood! I'll gladly pay my own life as a forfeit to the defect of the law, that has provided no punishment for such odious crimes." To the greater part of the company this speech was quite unintelligible, and only confirmed the suspicion of his madness; but one of them, who had observed the gentleman change countenance upon the noble mechanic's applying his hand to his thigh, soon cleared up the mystery. "I believe, sir," said he, "you have been too hasty, and mistaken an intention, not only harmless in itself, but generous also, for one of a very different nature! Have you any other reason for accusing his lordship of unnatural designs upon you, beside his laying his hand upon your thigh, and feeling it?"—"No, sir! but that I think enough; too much for him to offer, or for me to bear; nor will I bear it."—"I do not pretend, sir, to tell you what you must bear; but this I can tell you, that you have entirely, and most injuriously, mistaken his lordship, who meant no more by that action which gave you such offence, than just to take your measure for a pair of breeches, which, if you had not been so hastily in your resentment, he would have made you a present of."—"Death, sir, do you make a jest of me?"—His lordship, who had heard their discourse, and was by this time so far recovered of his fright as to be able to speak, interposed here, or the affair might probably have taken another turn. "No, indeed, sir," said he, "he does not jest! I meant nothing more, and all the company present knows, that I never had any passion in my life, but for breeches making; and, if you apprehended any thing else, you were very much mistaken."

This speech, and the manner in which it was delivered, were not to be resisted. They disarmed the gentleman's rage instantly, and his only concern was how to make up the matter, so as

to avoid the ridicule of such a mistake. He therefore told his lordship, that he was very sorry for his error, and hoped that he would attribute the consequences of it to that delicate sensibility, which every man of honor must have under such an apprehension. This was sufficient: his lordship, instead of harboring resentment, was glad to get so easily rid of the affair; and to convince the gentleman, both of the sincerity of his reconciliation, and that he had no other design, than what he said, in the action that gave him the offence, he undertook to make him a pair of buckskin breeches, only from the measure he had taken, that should fit him better than any he had ever worn in his life.

CHAPTER XVI

OPPOSITE to him sits one of those philosophers who build their pretensions to scientific fame on making collections of the anomalous frolics of nature, without ever attempting to investigate the wisdom and power displayed in the regular process of her works. In the course of this study, a whimsical adventure lately happened to the noble Virtuoso before us. A man that bought poultry round the country, to supply the markets of this great city, having got intelligence of his lordship's taste, resolved to turn it to his own advantage. He accordingly procured a most beautiful game cock, and sawing off the spurs of another cock that had very long ones, contrived to fix them firmly with wax on the head of this bird, on each side of the comb, with the points turned backwards, and inclining from each other, like the horns of a goat, in such a manner, that they appeared to have grown naturally there.

As soon as he found that he could bring his scheme to a probability of success, he waited on the Virtuoso, and giving notice, that he had something curious to communicate, was immediately admitted to an audience in his museum, where he informed him, that he had received intelligence, from a particular friend of his, a Scotch pedlar, that, in the farthest part of the Highlands, there was a most remarkable cock, with two surprizing horns growing out of the back of his head, in the possession of an old woman, who was famous for the second sight; that upon his admiring the creature, the woman had offered to sell it to him for a pound of tobacco and a bottle of brandy, but he was afraid to meddle with it, as all the country said it was her familiar, though he had seen it himself scrape the dunghill and tread the hens, like any other cock: and that, upon hearing the news, he was come to inform his lordship of

it, and to offer his service to go all the way himself for the bird, and bring him up, if he would promise to reimburse him the expenses of his journey, and give him some little consideration for his trouble; and to convince his lordship, that he had no design to impose upon him, he would go, at his own hazard, and desire nothing if he did not succeed.

The first mention of such a curiosity threw the Virtuoso into the highest rapture: he embraced the fellow, conjured him not to lose a minute, nor drop the least syllable of the affair to any person living till he brought him the cock; and, to secure his fidelity, pulled out his purse, and gave him ten guineas, with a promise of fifty more, the moment he should receive him.—The man promised every thing he required, and went away, hugging himself in the success of his scheme. Accordingly, he left that part of the country directly, and, taking care to keep beyond the reach of his lordship's enquiry, followed his business, as usual, for the time that he might be thought to have spent in his expedition. In the mean while, the Virtuoso could not conceal the pride of his heart, on the prospect of so great an acquisition; but in all his letters to his philosophical correspondents gave mysterious hints of something immensely fine, rare, and unnatural, and assumed the importance due to the possession of such a treasure.

At length, the moment arrived that was to complete his happiness. About ten o'clock at night the man alighted at his lordship's gate, and sending in his name, was immediately shewn into the museum, where his lordship flew to meet him, in the utmost impatience. As soon as the man entered, all over spattered with dirt, and putting on every appearance of fatigue, "Well, my good friend," said the Virtuoso, with the greatest eagerness, "what success? Where is the dear creature? Shall I be so happy as to see him in my possession?"—"My lord," answered the man, "I must beg your pardon for a moment, I am not able to speak: I am quite worn out"—and then dropping upon a chair, as if he was just ready to faint, his lordship immediately rung for some cordial for him, which he took from the servant himself at the door, (for he would not admit any one living) and gave him, with his own hand.—When he was a little recovered, "I beg your lordship's pardon," continued he, "but I could not hold out a moment longer: what with travelling all day, and watching all night, I am quite worn out." "But where is the bird?"—"And then such offers as I have refused!—Well, to be sure, I trusted to your lordship's generosity; for I shall never have such another opportunity of making my fortune: for behold the thing had taken wind, and there was my lord Duke's and sir Thomas's

men, and twenty more riding for life, to try who should get him, but I had got the start of them, and was coming back, with the pretty creature in my bosom; but I let them all go on their fool's errand, and did not say any thing to them; for how did I know but they might kill me to get him away from me?" —Having finished his speech, which the other did not chuse to interrupt, though he listened to it with the utmost impatience, the fellow opened his horseman's coat, and with the greatest caution produced the wonderful creature, the head and neck of which had been carefully thrust into a box made on purpose, for fear the coat should rub off the horns.

His lordship's rapture at the sight is not to be described.—He instantly pulled out his purse, and, paying down the promised price, took possession of him, and bid the man go and refresh himself for that night, with the best in the house, and in the morning he would consider how he might make him a return more equal to his service, by procuring him some handsome place at court. But the fellow had other designs in his head than ever to see his face more. However, he kept that to himself, and, retiring with many professions of gratitude, left his house directly, and took his leave of that country for ever.

In the mean time, his lordship had notice, that supper was served up: but, though he had company of the first rank in his house, he was so wrapt up in the contemplation of his new acquisition, that he sent word he was taken suddenly ill, and could not possibly attend them: he then dispatched several servants express to his learned friends, to desire their attendance next day, to see the most astonishing and beautiful composition nature had ever made in the animal world; and devoted the rest of the night to drawing up a proper description of this surprizing horned cock, with a physical enquiry into the substance of his horns, and a philosophical attempt to account for such an extraordinary production. When this work of uncommon learning was finished, he indulged himself with taking another view of his darling bird, and then put him in a beautiful cage, from which he dislodged two Chinese pheasants, and placed him in his museum next to his favorite horned owl.

It was six in the morning before he retired to rest, when his head was so full of his new acquisition, that he lay dreaming of cows with wings, and cocks with horns, and such like wonderful works of nature, till the arrival of his learned friends at noon. As soon as their coming was announced, he arose directly, and without waiting to visit his cock, to whom he had given a sufficiency of provisions before he left him, went to meet them. After several impatient enquiries into the cause of so sudden and peremptory a summons, the Virtuoso, in all the mysterious im-

portance, which so inestimable an acquisition gave him, produced his own learned labours of that morning, and, when they had sufficiently studied and examined them, introduced them to a sight of the unparalleled subject: "There, gentlemen," said he, in conscious exultation, "there, my friends, behold the most uncommon, unnatural, and inestimable curiosity, that ever enriched the collection of a philosopher. There behold an indisputable proof of their error, who assert that nature has placed an immoveable boundary between the quadruped and winged creations. There behold a sufficient encouragement, to urge your indefatigable search for monsters; and to mix the whole animal creation in coition, for the production of mermaids, griffins, centaurs, harpies, and horned cocks; and all that beautiful confusion which yield such inexpressible delight to an inquisitive, philosophic mind."—

While he was making this harrangue, the company approached the gilded cage, that contained this inestimable prodigy, and, stooping down to contemplate him, were surprised to find one of his horns fallen off, and the other moved considerably from the situation, in which it had been described to them: for doleful to relate, the cock which was of the right game breed, had unfortunately taken offence at the visage of the owl, his neighbour, and in his struggles to come at him, through the bars of the cage, had rubbed off one, and displaced the other of his horns. When this misfortune was mentioned to the owner, it is impossible to describe his astonishment and confusion. He stooped hastily to be satisfied of the truth of it, and, beholding the irreparable ruin of his pride, gave one dismal groan, and fell at his length on the floor, in a swoon.

While his servants, who were summoned upon the occasion, were fetching him to himself, one of the philosophers opened the cage, and taking out the bird, they all entered into a discussion of so strange a phenomenon. After many learned and ingenious solutions, one of them declared, that it had always been his opinion, in which the present case abundantly confirmed him, that all cornuted animals cast their horns every year, like the stag, and that the present case was no more than that; of which he was perfectly convinced, as he could plainly feel, with his finger the growing horn, which had thrust off the old one; so that, "My lord," said he, addressing himself to the owner who by this time was recovered and attending to their remarks, "Instead of being vexed at such an event, you have reason to rejoice, as it explains a very difficult point, and you will now have an opportunity of tracing the growth of this beautiful prodigy.

This sage solution administred some consolation to the Virtuoso, who immediately took the bird in his own hands, and

feeling the lump of wax, which had fastened on the fictitious horn, was convinced of the truth of his friend's accurate observation, which he himself further confirmed, by taking notice that, as no blood followed the avulsion, it was evident that the horn was of itself ready to fall off, without the assistance of the cock's struggling (for they had caught him at that work) as the dislocation of the other horn shewed that that was not in the same state of ripeness, and, therefore, it had resisted that force. Consciousness of the sagacity of this remark, in some degree, restored his spirits, and he was going to proceed, when one of the company, who had taken up and examined the fallen horn, and had not given any opinion on the matter, interrupted him drily, and said, that the hypothesis was certainly very ingenious, but he believed the affair might be solved a readier way, for upon examination of the supposed horn, he found it was only a cock's spur, which had been fastened upon the creature's head with wax, as appeared evidently by the remains of the wax upon the end of the spur in his hand; and, if they would let him pull of the other, he would undertake that the imposture would be too plain to admit of any doubt.

The mention of this threw them all into confusion, as they had all given their opinions positively, of the honour of which it deprived them, and cut short many more, which they were ready to offer; they therefore stood looking at each other, till he stretched out his hand to pull off the other horn, when they all interposed, particularly the owner, and insisted that they must be better satisfied of what he had advanced, before they could permit so rash an experiment. But the bird himself cut short the dispute; for, some of the company happening to have snuff in their fingers, it got into the cock's eyes, and made him shake his head, with such violence, that off flew the horn in his owners face. The person, who had made the discovery, immediately took it up, and shewed such plain proof of the trick, that it could no longer be denied.

It is impossible to describe the shame and vexation, in every philosophic face present, at this lamentable event. The abused purchaser, in particular, was almost mad: however, after mature deliberation, it was agreed upon, for the credit of philosophy, to bear the deceit in silence, rather than expose themselves to the ridicule of the unlearned, by seeking satisfaction from the cheat. As for the cock, he was immediately sacrificed to *Æsculapius*, to avert the consequences which such a disappointment might have upon the health and understanding of the company, and to remove such an evidence of their disgrace. But all their caution was in vain: the person, who first detected the deceit, could not deny his vanity the pleasure of making his sagacity known; and the fellow, finding his trick passed

ever thus with impunity, could not avoid boasting of it; and to this day diverts his customers with the history of the horned cock.

CHAPTER XVII.

I SEE you are shocked at the inconsistency, vice, and folly of mankind; but this is owing to your recluse life, and want of acquaintance with the world! to an accurate observer, things appear in their proper colors; and if the picture should be unpleasing, the fault is in the subject, not in the painter, who honestly represents nature as he finds her. As to those, of whom I had given you these short sketches, they are wealthy, and wealth is an excuse for all things; the nobility of their birth not yielding a greater sanction to their persons, than their money does to their vices and follies. And where these tend to the dissipation of that wealth, they only enhance their welcome in every place of polite resort: indeed, the society, in which you see them at present assembled, subsists entirely by these; as by the institution of it, no person can be admitted, who has not wealth to dissipate; as no person can be admitted, who has not a vicious avarice for the wealth of others, and folly enough to hazard his own for the acquisition of it.

But, though folly is, in the strictness of truth, thus essential to this association, there are many of the members, who, in the general meaning of the word, are entirely above the imputation of it; yet so prevalent is the infatuation of gaming, that they will bear the grossest impertinences, and mix with the outcasts of humanity, for its gratification, as if the dice, like death, levelled all distinctions.

Observe that person, who seems to be absorbed in thought, in the midst of the hurricane around him. Reason takes the advantage of his being for a moment disengaged, and forces him to behold, in a proper light, a scene so contrary to "the economy of human life," as that in which he is involved; but wait till the dice box comes round to him, and you will see all his philosophy vanish, and his passion for gaming hurry him as destructive lengths as the most thoughtless of them all.

Every ability, every virtue that could adorn and exalt the human mind, conspired to throw the brightest lustre around his youth, and mark him as a blessing to society. Nor did he disappoint the general hope, but filled, with dignity and honor, the high employments to which his merits raised him, till this pernicious passion insensibly unbent his mind, and turned his thoughts from every nobler pursuit. The falling off

was most unhappy: his time, every moment of which is precious to the public, is wasted in idle dissipation, or devoted to pleasures, destructive to his fortune, which thus falls a prey to sharpers, while the industrious, honest tradesman calls in vain for payment, at his door.

Yet, even in this improvidence, the natural virtue of his heart sometimes appears, in a manner that softens the severity of censure. Some years ago, when he filled one of the most important places of the state, in a neighbouring nation, he had notice given him, that a set of sharpers, disguised with the most delicate and specious art, had entered into a combination against him; but instead of profiting by the friendly caution, and avoiding them, he seemed to throw himself, on purpose, into the snares laid for him, till they pillaged him of sums of money, sufficient to distress the greatest fortune.

As it was known, that he had been forewarned of their schemes, his conduct was astonishing to all: but he vindicated it; by saying, that the wretches had put themselves to a considerable expense, and travelled a great way to accomplish their design; if he had disappointed which, they must either have starved or robbed, perhaps from those who might not be able to bear the loss, and then have been hanged: so that he looked upon it as charity, in a double sense, to submit to be cheated by them, and in the same manner does he still vindicate his gaming, with persons so notorious for their villainies, that it is almost infamous to speak to them.

At his left hand, you see a person, with an heap of gold before him, which he dissipates with such eagerness, that he seems desirous to be poor. His father heaped up that wealth, with an avidity, that was a disgrace to human nature. The groans of the distressed, the tears of the orphan and the widow, which he hoarded with his riches, now eat them like a canker; and the gold, that he wrung from the hard hands of the poor, melts in the possession of his spendthrift heir, like snow before the sun. Nor was the sordidness of his heart, in abstaining from the most necessary use of his riches, inferior to his iniquity in acquiring them. He denied himself the very necessities of life, and literally lived in the most abject poverty, for fear of being poor. To this perverse disposition does the person you see, in a great measure, owe his inheriting his wealth; for he had an elder brother, whom the miser had always designed to be his heir, till an ill timed act of filial piety lost him his favor.

The old man had an ailment in his leg, which, for want of proper and timely care, had grown to such a degree of malignancy, that it at length became absolutely necessary to cut it off, in order to save his life. Terrible as the apprehension of

such an operation must be, the expense of it gave him still greater concern. To have it done, therefore, in the cheapest manner, he made his eldest son disguise himself in a mean dress and take a lodging for him in a garret, in one of the obscurest corners of the town; whither he removed himself by night, and under the character of a poor tradesman, sent for a surgeon who lived in that neighbourhood, and advertised his skill at the lowest price. His son, whose near prospect of such an immense inheritance did not efface his filial duty and affection, was shocked at such an instance of avarice, and, though he dared not contradict, was resolved to counteract it. Accordingly, when he was sent for the surgeon, (for his father had not revealed his retreat to any of his servants, for obvious reasons,) instead of going to the quack, as he was directed, he went to one of the most eminent surgeons of the age, and, revealing the whole affair to him, prevailed on him, for a large gratification, to disguise himself, and undertake to perform the operation, for whatever trifle should be offered him; and then told his father, with an appearance of joy, that, as he was a going for the advertising surgeon, he had luckily met, in an alehouse where he was directed to enquire for him, a person who had been many years a surgeon's mate on board a man of war, who he was sure would cut off his leg, not only much better, but cheaper; also, as his appearance shewed that he was starving, and must be glad to take whatever he could get.

Such a lucky hit raised the old man's spirits, so that he submitted to the operation without farther concern, which was performed in so masterly a manner, that, in a fit, of unwonted generosity, he gave the surgeon half a guinea, though he had bargained with him for a crown; but then he comforted himself, when he began afterwards to reflect upon his extravagance, that he could stop it out of the fees for his attendance. In the same manner as he had imposed a good surgeon upon him, did his unfashionable son supply him with all things necessary for his condition, by making a woman, in whom he could confide, bring them every day, as if from a lady of fortune, a patient of the surgeon's, to whom he had represented him as an object of charity; for, if he had had no other support but what he allowed himself, he must have perished for want of proper nourishment. When his cure was completed by this management, and he came to discharge the surgeon, after lamenting his inability to make a more suitable return, he offered him a couple of guineas; but the surgeon not thinking it necessary to carry on the deceit any longer, now the end was answered, told him that he need make no apology, for his son had already given him two hundred.—“My son, Sir! I do not

understand you," answered the wretch, in the most violent agitations of surprise, confusion, and rage, "Yes, Sir," replied the surgeon, addressing him by his name, and telling his own, "your son, to whom you are indebted for your life more ways than one; for, it was he that supplied you with the things which you imagined to have been sent you out of charity."—

Shocking as this discovery was, the old miser recovered presence of mind to carry it off in an admirable manner. "Sir," said he, "I have a proper sense of my son's duty, and of your skill in profession; though you have prevented my making an acknowledgement of them in the manner I intended: For you must not think that I have been deceived; I knew you all along, and I removed to this place, and took this method of concealing myself both to avoid the trouble and impertinence of visitors and complimentary messages, and to make trial of my son's duty; of which I had now a sufficient proof."—Saying this, he took the surgeon by the hand, and accepted his offer of continuing to attend him till his wound should be quite healed, with the greater readiness, as he was paid already; but to his son he behaved in a different manner, for he directly made a new will, by which he bequeathed his immense fortune to the next brother, the person before us, leaving the other to pine out his days in poverty, on a poor annuity, "*in reward for his obedience and duty*," (in the very words of his will) an injustice that was farther aggravated, by his having made him relinquish the most promising hopes of rising in the army, and resign his commission, some time before, merely to attend upon him. Such a shock was almost too great for human fortitude: the injured gentleman sunk under it; happy in escaping soon from a world, where the highest virtue is despised if destitute of wealth.

As for the heir, it was his good fortune to be bred at such a distance from his father, that he had no opportunity of making any observations on him, and therefore, as the miser could not carry his wealth with him out of the world, he even left it to him; though, could he have foreseen the scene before us, he would sooner have bequeathed it to *charitable* uses, to enrich overseers, and starve the poor, than given it to such a spend-thrift.

I see your senses fail under such an extraordinary exertion. I shall therefore close this scene with observing that the whole company may be characterized under the few I have pointed to you. In this few of them, I chose to take the silent moment, when their business was near over, for, in the height of it, the agitation of such complicated passions would have been too horrible for representation.

CHAPTER XVIII.

I promised to give you some account of my late lord. He was the son of one of the most distinguished persons of his age, who had acquired a fortune in the service of his country, sufficient to support, with proper dignity, the nobility with which his faithful zeal was rewarded by his grateful sovereign.

The youth of his son opened with such promising hopes, that it was expected he would advance, in the steps of his father, to the highest rank of a subject. To facilitate these hopes, at his return from his travels, in which he had not only gone to see, but had also taken time to consider the principal countries of Europe, with those of Africa and Asia, whose interests might any way affect those of his own, or whose history, illustrated thus by observation, might teach him to improve the advantages of his own country, and avoid the evils which had been the ruin of others, he was placed in the lower house of the senate, with every advantage of fortune, interest, and opinion, to support the exertion of his abilities.

He had scarce made himself known here, in his proper light, when the death of his father raised him into the upper house, where he soon established a weight that made him of real consequence to the nation, and alarmed the fears of the ministry, who, as they could not confute, resolved to corrupt him, if possible; for which and the deepest schemes were put in practice, to relax his morals, and embarrass his fortune, as the present situation of both raised him above their attempts.

It would require uncommon virtue to resist the temptations to vice, in an age whose refinements have taken off every grossness, and almost every horror of its appearance. His regard was won, by a most delicate application to that vanity, which is too often the shadow of merit, especially in youth; the very persons who design to change his principles, seeming to give up theirs to the superior force of his reason.

Such artifice soon won the confidence of his unguarded heart, and inclined it to receive their opinions and advice, without farther examination; as the heat of youth and a vivid imagination assisted their designs against his fortune, the success of which was in itself a sufficient reward.

He had always expressed a dislike to play, nor ever gave into it, but in complaisance to company. To conquer this aversion was therefore their last labor, in which they found easier success than they could have even hoped for. The affluence of his fortune made him above apprehension of loss, and a disdain to

he excelled, even in an art he disapproved, engaged him with a keenness, that soon made his advances in the art a pleasure to him.

The work was now done; and a few years of his own industry, with the assistance of his friends, and the management of his faithful steward, made him willing to enter into the pay of a ministry, which he might, in less time, have overturned.

This was his situation at that time; but some secret struggles which I saw reason and virtue making in his heart, make me think he meditates a revolt from his infatuation, which the least liberty to his natural good sense could not fail to accomplish; an event, which the rapacity of Poundage must hasten to his own ruin.

The person in whose possession I left the scene you have just beheld, was one of those who had been so successful in initiating my late master into all the mysteries of pleasure. Indeed, he seemed designed by nature to extend its empire over all mankind, making it the sole object of abilities equal to the most exalted pursuits; to invent new, to improve the old methods of gratifying sense, and enforcing his precepts, by an example so keen, and a conversation so captivating, as not to be resisted.

Appetites so extensive required a large support; to provide which, for fortune had so far frowned upon his birth, that he was but a younger brother, he was compelled to steal some moments from his darling pleasures, and sacrifice them to business. The interest of his family and his own abilities had raised him to the first employments in the state; but as the sole motive of his submitting to the restraint of any application, was to acquire a fund for the gratification of his pleasures, his taste to arrive at that end precipitated him into the most destructive measures, and made him ready and eager to embrace every opportunity of sacrificing, or rather selling the interest of his country for present private gain.

The proper application of the gifts of heaven makes them a blessing. This cast of his disposition made those abilities, which, under a right direction, would have been of the highest service to himself and his country, a real prejudice to both: making him the ready and dangerous instrument of the most enormous crimes, that could promise present gratification to his passions.

In such a life, there must necessarily be many disagreeable occurrences, but they made no impression on him, for his whole soul is so devoted to pleasure, that upon the least mis-carriage in business he finds immediate relief in the return to that, which he can fly to, without any difficulty, the natural

vivacity of his temper, that makes his conversation so bewitching to others, never yielding to a second moment's vexation at any one event.

As the viper bears in herself the antidote of her poison, this dissipation of temper prevents his abilities from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, by pulling off the mask, and shewing his designs too soon for their accomplishment. The very persons, who would gladly avail themselves of the venality, not daring to trust to the inconstancy of his disposition; so that he soon lost his greatest power of doing evil, otherwise than by opposing, and impeding the measures of those, whose successful honesty disappointed his designs, and shewed the danger of them in its proper light.

You will not imagine, that my stay could be long in his possession. He that very day gave me to an author, for throwing dirt on the characters of those who had detected and defeated his schemes of leading his country into ruin.

CHAPTER XIX.

My new master was a votary of *Apollo*, in the double capacity of physic and letters: for the former not affording scope enough for his genius, he usually dedicated his leisure hours to the gentler entertainment of the latter, through the extensive circle of which he had occasionally ran; there not being a branch in the wide world of science which had not felt his pruning: the lowest rudiments of the most vulgar arts being, in his opinion, no more beneath the philosophic pen, than the most abstruse heights of speculation.

It must be owned, that, in such a latitude of study, he often was obliged to prostitute his labors; but for this he had the solid consolation, that his gain generally rose, in proportion as his subject sunk, the caprice of the world paying best, that is, buying most eagerly, what it affected to decry most. Nor is this to be wondered at, a loose tale, or a receipt for cooking a new dish, being better adapted to general taste, than a moral essay, or metaphysical speculation.

From his patron's levee, my master went directly home, and, undressing into his cap and slippers, ascended to his study, and took a meditative turn or two, resolving in his mind the many grievances that called upon him for redress, from the success of that morning.

At length bursting into a rapture, he cried, "I'll think no more! Be the wants of yesterday forgot! those of to-morrow will come too soon, without the anticipation of thought! I

cannot pay all I owe! I cannot provide all I want! Hence then, vain care! I'll depend on fortune, and myself, for a greater supply another day, and indulge my genius with the present."—— Big with this heroic resolution, he gave orders for dinner, and then, sending for his best suit home, he dressed himself in all his pride, and went to a coffee house to look at the papers.

The pleasure of my company had given such a flow to his spirits, naturally high, that he soon drew the attention of the coffee room, the greater part of the company gathering in a circle round him, to hear his remarks on the publications of the day, which he threw out with the confidence of one, who thought his opinion the established standard of all writing; and at the same time, with a sprightliness that made his very impudence and absurdity entertaining.

While he was thus running on, in the torrent of harangue, a veteran, whose only employment, for many years, was talking over the actions of his youth, and comparing them to the mistakes and losses of the present times, no longer able to contain his rage, at having his audience drawn from him, in the midst of his daily tale, rose up with an execration that shook the room, and calling for his cloak and cane, "This is not to be borne," exclaimed he, "Here, waiter, take for my coffee! I shall stay in such a place no longer: is this the land of freedom, forsooth! that a man must be disturbed in his discourse, and not have liberty to speak where he spends his money? Had I but the command here I'd settle other orders; every prating puppy should not presume to interrupt his betters: things are like to go well with us, when matters of the highest consequence can be broken in upon by noise and nonsense. This is freedom with a vengeance."

The look and accent with which these words were pronounced, were too terrible for my master to encounter; both nature and experience having given him so lively an apprehension of danger, that his readiest presence of mind was not always able to conceal it. He was, therefore, cut short at once, and could scarce master spirits to throw a wink at some of those about him, as the man of war looked another way.

But the triumph was not so absolute over all the company: one of whom, resolving to have some *fun*, cries out, "Pray doctor proceed; you, are just in the most interesting part of your story: the colonel could not mean to interrupt you; he is too fond of telling his own story to give another such pain: go on; you should not be frightened at a flash in the pan."

"Frighted indeed," replied the doctor, gathering courage when he saw himself supported, "At what, I wonder! at the sight of what old age can sink to! no, no! I am not so easily

frighted! I leave that to your antiquated heroes, the exploits of whose youth have exhausted their courage: I mean no offence—but to go on, as I was saying, the discovery of the sleep of plants accounts in the clearest manner”——“Hold, doctor,” cries the other, “that was not ‘as you were saying,’ you were telling us of the nobleman, who caught his coachman in bed with his lady, one morning, when he came home, sooner than usual from the tavern, pray how did she bring herself off?”

“Oh, was that it,” replied the doctor, “faith I had forgot; the fury of Mars had like to have made a gap in the annals of Venus: ha! ha! ha!—Why she made nothing of it, but laughing in his face, most heroically, *tit for tat*, my dear, is but fair play, said she; while I say nothing at your staying out night after night with Kitty, you cannot in conscience blame my comforting myself a little with John.”

The colonel stood all this while convulsed with rage, too big for utterance, but the universal laugh, that followed the doctor’s last words, rousing him, he advanced to him, “Whom do you dare to laugh at, poltroon?” says he, taking him by the nose, “Whose courage is exhausted—but you are beneath my notice or resentment, farther than this”—then spitting full in his face, he turned to the gentleman who had set the doctor on, and who began now not to like the joke any farther. “But for you, sir! you perhaps may be a gentleman, and worth calling to a further account! will you please to walk up stairs with me, and let me know what you mean by a flash in the pan?”

The ceremonies of attending him, on such an expedition, would not have been much more agreeable to this gentleman than to my master, but he had more command of his fear, and was well used to bring himself off with a joke. “Sir,” says he, “you need not give yourself the trouble of going up stairs, for what I can as well do here. By bidding the doctor not be frightened, I mean at the circumstances of his own story, for just as you interrupted him, he had said, the lord snapped a pistol at his lady, which had flashed in the pan! That was all, sir. I could never mean it to offend you, or shew a doubt of your courage, which I have heard you relate so many surprizing instances of, so often, and always so invariably alike, that they must be true.”

“Sir! sir! have a care,” replied the colonel, “I do not desire to be troubled with such a gentleman as I perceive you are; But let me tell you, sir, that I have seen a man’s face broke before now, for wearing such a sneer! As to the stories I tell, I am satisfied they will be of no service to you, nor raise the least emulation in a man who can stay lounging about

town, when his country has occasion for him. I was younger than you when I went a volunteer with lord Cutts, under the duke of Marlborough; nor was I urged by want: I had a good estate, sir, sufficient to supply me with what you call the pleasures of life, if I could have thought any thing a pleasure that was not attended with honour. Sir, I lost this hand at Blenheim, and this leg at Malplaquet. But why do I tell you! you will preserve your hands to take snuff: and your legs to walk the Park, the proper scene of your campaigns."—With which words the doughty hero marched away to his chariot.

Though this lecture was rather too grave for the taste of the person to whom it was addressed, it gave great pleasure to the unconcerned part of the company, and to none more than my master, who had wiped his face, and began to come to himself, as soon as he saw the danger directed another way.

Before the gentleman could speak, the doctor came up to him, and said, "I am sorry, sir, "That you should have drawn this storm upon yourself upon my account; but I bore the worst of it. You heard but the whistling of the winds, the shower fell on me! 'tis well though, that what such dotards do is not esteemed an affront!"—"An affront sir," replied the other, "I do not understand you! I hope you do not insinuate, that there was any affront offered to me, or that I was in the least concerned in what was said only to you!"—"Not at all, sir," returned the doctor, "not at all, sir! the colonel's discourse was all directed to me, to be sure! and I hope to profit by it, thus far, that I will never interrupt him again!"—And with these words he left his former friend the field, not caring to enter into any farther altercation with him, for fear he might take it into his head to vindicate his character on him, as he knew his man.

Such slight rebuffs made not a moment's impression on the temper of my master: he was used to, and made nothing of them! A good dinner, and a bottle of wine, sent him in the evening, in a critical enthusiasm, to the theatre, where all action fell short of the sublimity of his conception, all expression, of the warmth of his feeling, as he fully explained to every company in the coffee house, while he sat at public supper, after the play was done.

CHAPTER XX.

EXTENSIVE as these scenes were, they shewed not my master in his proper light. His peculiar sphere was his study where the inconsistency of his work, shewed the chaos in the brain, from whence they sprung. *Chaos* did I say! Chaos is order to the confusion there. For surely the discordant seeds of such ill matched things were never jumbled together before. An auctioneer's library is a regular system, in comparison to his head. Such an heap has neither beginning nor end. No fixed point to commence a description from. I shall therefore wave such an attempt, and only strive to convey some idea of it from its effects.—At five the next morning he arose to his labors, the first of which was to consider what he should begin the day with, such was the multitude he had in hand. But what reason could not determine, chance must; and he took them as they happened to lie: panegyric, libel, physic, divinity, cookery, criticism, politics, ballads, botany, &c. &c. &c. In all of which he indefatigably worked the task of the day, changing his subject with as little concern as he did his paper: and though such rambling prevented his ever getting deeper than the surface of any subject, yet it shewed the extent and volubility of his capacity; and that it wanted only regular application to any science, to be eminent in it.

As soon as he had finished, and the *devils* had carried away his labours, he was just descending to go out, when a bookseller came to pay him a visit. After much ceremony on one side and little civility on the other, Mr. Vellum thus accosted my master; "Well Sir, I see there is no dependance on the word of an author! I thought I was to have the answer to yesterday's pamphlet last night! Somebody else will do it, and then I shall be finely off."

"Upon my honour, Sir," replied my master, "I assure you I should have done it, but some business."—What business can you have, that should interfere a moment with your engagements with me?"—"Dear Mr. Vellum, do but hear me! There is a noble lord going to be divorced for impotence; I just got a hint of the matter, the night before last, and so waited upon his lordship's gentleman yesterday morning, with whom I have a particular intimacy, having served him in my profession more than once; and from him I have learned the whole story, and now leave me to set it out! I'll engage to make a noble eighteen penny worth of it, at least by to morrow morning."—"Why, there may be something in that; but in the mean time you should

not let other matters cool."—"Never fear; pray how did yesterday's phauphlet do?"—"Why, tolerably well; but the same scandal was so gross, that I was almost afraid:—"Aye! aye! never fear me for an home cut; never fear me!"—"But I hear nothing of the exertitions!"—"No; I sent away the sheet above an hour ago."—"Then there's that book you promised to re-write; some one else will do it, and prevent you."—"Never fear, I have just laid down a scale for the style; besides, I have altered the title already, and that you know is the principal thing;"—"That is right! Now you speak of titles, I want half a dozen directly! this very day, if possible."—"It is rather too late now; but where are the books?"—"In the lumber garret, where they have lain these seven years."—"That's well; they are forgot by this."—"Forgot! why they were never known; the author was a man of fortune, who printed them at his own expense, but I prevented the sale, and so had them for the publishing! ha! ha! ha! beside a good consideration for buying up at double price what I had [not] sold of them; so that it was not a bad job; and, now he is dead, they may safely come out, under new titles.—It will be too great a delay to wait to see them, but here are the old titles, which I suppose may do."—"Why, aye; they may do! but I cannot possibly write them this evening; you know I must answer that pamphlet I wrote last week, before it is forgot; I have an answer ready, that will make a noise; I expect it will raise a curiosity, that will sell another edition of the pamphlet. I left openings for such retorts upon the characters I praised in that, and have such pieces of secret history to hit them off with, that I'll engage for the success."—"Aye, secret history, and stories of family misfortunes, and such like, may do something; but I had like to have forgot the main business of my coming. There is an account of the death of an eminent divine, this morning: could we not vamp up a volume or two of sermons for him, think you? He was suspected of heresy and atheism, and you know, that would make any thing in his name go off."—"Egad, a good thought! and particularly lucky at this time: for, as I have been engaged in divinity lately, I know the weak sides of the question, and a little infidelity will be a refreshment to me. It shall be done! the sermons shall be ready without delay; have not you got some by you that did not go off: let me have one of each, and I'll interline them to save time; but will you publish them yourself?—I thought you had given up sermons."—"Myself! no! no! I'll send them in to Mr. Vampe: I'll reserve the confutation of them to myself."—"Egad, another good thought; the confutation will do better, and I'll take care to make it a smart one, and play the devil with the author; ha, ha, ha.—But, Mr. Vellum,

your coming here this morning prevented my waiting on you; it is a great while since you promised to settle with me. You should consider, sir"—"What pray, good sir, should I consider? that I have supported you!"—"Supported me, Mr. Vellum! Sir, I have a profession"—I know you have, Mr. Doctor; a profession indeed, in which his Majesty's subjects may bless God that nine in ten of you would starve, if they had no other way of getting bread, beside that."—"Mr. Vellum, you know this way of talking signifies nothing. It is a long time since we have settled any account, and there are a great many articles. Let me see: aye, here they are; and a long list it is: *Nineteen pamphlets, with answers to fourteen of them; nine rapes, six murders, five fast and four funeral sermons, thirty-six essays, twenty-two titles, four quarto volumes re-written, seventeen wills, twenty-four*"—Go on, sir, go on! but when you have done, look at *this*, and then talk to me of an account. Here is your bond for fifteen pounds, which is due these two years; and it is very likely, to be sure, that you should leave it out-standing so long if you had any account to set off against it! but I am glad I know you; and, since you talk of accounts, observe that I demand my money, due on this bond, which I will have, and when you have paid that, it will be time enough for me to settle accounts with you; so, sir, your servant."—"Mr. Vellum, good Mr. Vellum, do not be so hasty! I did not mean to give you offence."—"Accounts indeed! have I not supplied you with paper above the weekly allowance we agreed for, and yet you will talk to me!"—"Mr. Vellum, I may be in the wrong; let matters stand as they are: but you have not told me what size you would have this affair of the divorce, that I mentioned to you just now"—"There it is now; that is your way always; you know my easy temper, and that you can bring me down when you please. Why, if the story will bear much painting, and the circumstances are very strong and plain, I believe you may draw it out to two shillings; and to encourage you, and shew you that I mean generously by you, when you have finished that, and the *Sermons*, and the *Confutation*, and the *Titles*, and the *Exercitations*, I will give you up your bond, and then we will begin an account on fair even terms. But I am in haste; I have three or four other gentleman to call upon; I shall depend upon your promise, and so good morning."—"Good morning to you, good Mr. Vellum.—Damned, imposing, grinding scoundrel; but I'll be quit with you, for all your tricks," said the doctor, as soon as Mr. Vellum was out of the room, "and teach such stupid rascals to attempt outwitting men of genius."

When I considered the nature and importance of my master's demand I could not but wonder at the ease with which he took

a denial and the joy he expressed at Mr. Vellum's departure; but the mystery was soon cleared up, by the arrival of Mr. Pamphlet, another of the trade, almost the very moment Vellum went down stairs, and whom, I saw, by his reception, my master expected.

If I was before shocked at the cruelty with which I thought Vellum treated my master, I was now no less so, at the part he acted with Pamphlet, with whom he bargained over again for the very same ware which he before promised to Vellum, and flattered him with an assurance of having his business done, that is, the answers and re-writing before Vellum possibly could, for they were mortal enemies.

The discourse between these was much the same as the former, only that it was concluded in a different manner; Pamphlet giving my master a couple of pieces, to keep him in mind of his engagement.

I was utterly at a loss to think how he meant to act between these two; when he put an end to my doubts by this soliloquy. "So, now I have dispatched you two, the day is my own; keep my engagements! I will, with both alike. Let me see, there is nothing in it but a little trouble of writing: I can divide the hits between both answers, according to the opens I have left on purpose; and so send them to both at the same time; only to divide the alterations in my scale of stile, and make a second title, and so it is done. This method that I have found, of using a feigned name, makes it all easy. Well let those who were born to fortunes, spend them in sloth and ignorance, I have an estate in myself, that never can be exhausted. I am obliged to nature only for my abilities, and carry the fountain of honor and fortune in the fluency of my genius."

He then descended from his aerial citadel, and going out to visit his patients, changed me at a coffee house, where I was immediately borrowed at the bar by an officer, who was going to dine with his general, and wanted money to give his servants.

BOOK II.

CHAPTER I

YOU may judge that my stay with this owner was but short: he gave me directly to the general's gentleman, with a letter to be presented to his excellency next morning, as he could not find courage to speak to him in person.

The case of this person, though not uncommon among men, I own affected me. He was the son of an officer of distinguished merit, the services of whose life had, in the eightieth year of it, been rewarded with the command of a regiment, and the hopes of his son crowned with a pair of colors; which on the death of his father, in six months after his elevation, he found to be his whole inheritance; the fees of office, and the equipage for his new rank, having exhausted all the savings of the old man's subaltern frugality.—The most exemplary duty, in five warm campaigns, had advanced the son to the rank of a lieutenant, when the exaltation of the person to whom he now applied, raised his hopes to a company, which was vacant in the regiment, and his right by seniority, for such was his ignorance of mankind, that he built sanguine expectations on the very reasons that should have deprived him of any, the obligations of the person, to whom he applied, to his father, who had taken him up, the poor friendless orphan of an ensign; educated him at his own expense; procured him his first commission; and afterwards lent him the money with which he had purchased his company: a debt which the son was weak enough to expect a friendship from, though it, and much more, had long since been cleared at play.

But, though the character of the son, and the general's known intimacy with the father, in a manner obliged him to promise him his friendship, yet nothing was farther from his thoughts than ever to do him any real service; as he imagined that

would be acknowledging the obligations which his very attendance seemed to upbraid him; with a dinner now and then being the only favour he ever had, or ever meant to give him. You may perhaps have experienced the misery of a dependant's dining at the table of his patron, where the tortures of Tantalus are aggravated by anxiety of giving offence. I shall therefore hasten over this, and the other scenes of that evening, which were but the common occurrences of military greatness, and ended in a deep debauch, as soon as all but the chosen few had retired, to come to the conclusion of my late master's story, in which my present bore a considerable part.

As soon as the general had slept off the fumes of his wine, and awoke next morning, my master's hour of influence arrived, which he never failed to improve. After a prelude of coughing and spitting, the scene opened thus, "Who's there? William!"—"Sir,"—"William, was not I very drunk last night! my head aches most confoundedly."—"Your *excellency* was a little cut, but you broke up much the strongest of the company."—"Aye, I wonder at that, I spend myself with talking, when I begin to go, and that helps a man on damnably: that story of the battle, where I was taken prisoner is a bottle in my way always."—"That foreign gentleman, who never speaks a word, has a great advantage then."—"Aye, so he has; but he is a damned honest fellow, and a very good companion; he always fills a bumper and never speaks a word—But my head!"—"Perhaps your *excellency* had better take something."—"No, I have taken too much already; though that's right; give me a glass of the old Geneva; I am to go to council to day, and must settle my head—Aye, that will do, I am much better now: there is nothing like a hair of the old dog."

This conversation continued till he was seated to breakfast, when my master turned to a new topic. "I was very sorry," said he, "that your *excellency* happened to sit in last night, as Mrs. Motherly was to call"—"Why that's true, William, I did not think of one engagement when I made the other; and, when she called me out, I was not in cue; I was too far gone. We old-fellows are not sparrows; the spirit is often willing, when the flesh is weak; ha, ha, ha."—"Your *excellency* is pleased to be merry, but, to my thinking, the youngest fellow of the age has not more vigour."—"Aye, William, do you think so indeed? But why do you think so, William?"—"Because your *excellency* always chuses such green things; now I should think a ripe woman would be better; I am sure she would give less trouble."—"Ha, ha, ha, why that's your taste; but youth is mine, and while I have powers (and I do, not

think mine quite gone yet) I will please my taste. But what had Mrs. Motherly last night?"—"A very fine girl as your *excellency* could wish to see."—"How old?"—"About sixteen."—"Psha, mellow pears; I loath such trash."—"But Mrs. Motherly said she could swear she was untouched. She came from the country but yesterday, a relation of her own: the poor thing knew nothing of the matter, and thought she came to be hired for a laundry maid."—"Why that is something, but I wish she were younger."—"If your *excellency* pleases but to wait a little, I have one in my eye that will suit your taste exactly; a sweeter child is not in all England."—"Aye, good William," spitting once or twice, and wriggling in his chair, "Aye, that is something, but how old?"—"Just ten, and finely grown."—"Right, the right age. That's true! I'll speak this very day for that place for your brother. Tell him to come to-morrow: I will not be refused."—"We are both obliged to your *excellency* for your favors."—"But when shall I see this girl? give Motherly some excuse with her ripe fruit. Sixteen! sixty! psha!"—"Sir, I shall go about it this very evening. A letter from captain Standard; will your *excellency* please to read it?"—"Damn him and his letter: throw it into the fire! What would the unreasonable scoundrel have? Did I not give him his dinner yesterday? Has he not been introduced to good company at my table? If he had any industry or spirit, with these advantages, he would have learned to play, and made his fortune as others do. Since he grows troublesome on encouragement, I'll starve him into better manners. Bid the porter strike him off the dinner list."—"I beg your *excellency's* pardon, for mentioning him; but the manner I have heard you talk to him made me imagine you really did design to provide for him; and he says that there is a vacancy in the regiment just now."—"Damn his impudence! a vacancy indeed! I shall never think there is a good one till he makes it at Tyburn."—"I beg your *excellency's* pardon: I shall never mention him more. Would you have me go about the *child* this evening? It is a little angel to be sure."—"This moment if you think you can succeed."—"I shall try at any rate: but there is one obstacle."—"What is that? you know I never grudge money on these occasions. How much will do?"—"That is not the difficulty here; money will not do, and I hardly know what will."—"Money not do? Why what the devil can it be, that money will not do?"—"I scarce know how to mention it to your *excellency* but the little cherub is neice to captain Standard, his sisters daughter, and while he is in the way, there will be no possibility of getting at her."—"Is that all? Then he shall join the regiment to-morrow."—"But then he will leave such an impression of your

H.

unkindness upon his sister, if there is nothing done for him, after waiting so long, that it will be impossible for any person belonging to you to gain access.—“What would you have me do? I never will bear to have the fellow get a company in my regiment, that would be acknowledging the obligations he has the impudence to say I received from his father; I never will hear it.”—I beg your *excellency's* pardon: I did not presume to point out any such thing, and indeed the possession of such a *baby* (though my eyes never beheld her fellow) is not worth your giving yourself so much trouble about; she is quite too young, though so well grown.”—You say she is but just ten! and such a beauty!”—“I wish your *excellency* could but see her; for I am unable to describe her”.—“But cannot some way be found out beside fixing this fellow under my nose?” “That was just as I was going to take the liberty of hinting to your *excellency*. There are several gentleman of fortune in the troops just ordered to America, who have no liking to the voyage. Now I think, with submission, that you would oblige some of them, with an exchange in your regiment and let captain Standard go in his place. And this will oblige him too; for I have often heard him wish to go there, in hopes of rising, when they come into action.” “A good thought, and so I will, let the fellow go to America and get scalped; his hot head wants to be cooled: such poor wretches as he, are just fit to be transported there. Tell him to prepare directly! I long to be rid of him. But when shall I see the dear little creature?” “In twenty four hours after he is gone, I'll undertake to have her eating sugar plumbs; and sobbing in your bosom. It cannot possibly be sooner, for you know the captain's spirit, and that he would cut the throat of a prince, who should dishonor his family as he calls it.” “Aye, damn his spirit, that is true; that is what has kept me civil to the fellow so long: I know he has all the romantic madness about honor, and such stuff, that made his fool of a father live and die a beggar.”

By this time his *excellency* was dressed to go to council, for which another dram settled his head.

I see your surprise, at the brutal behaviour of the master, and the infamous designs of the man. The former is beyond aggravation: but the latter were, only an honest artifice in favor of his friend, who had no such neice in the world.

CHAPTER II.

WILLIAM was a son of the regiment, born of one of the general wives that followed it. He was about the same age with Standard, who had taken such a liking to him, when they were boys, that he shared his allowance with him, gave his old cloaths, and taught him what he learned at school. A natural acuteness of genius improved these advantages so well, that William could read and write enough for a gentleman; dance, fence, and scrape on the violin, before his friend's power of serving him was put an end to, by the death of his father; and his spirit and appetites were too great to accept his offer, of the best support an ensign could spare him, to maintain him as a cadet, till his merit should get a commission. But though he would not accept, he did not forget the offer, nor make his obligations a cause of hatred, now that it was in his power to make some return; a way of thinking that proved the meanness of his birth; for, quitting the barren paths of military honor, he had turned his genius to the more thriving profession of a footman; through the various ascents of which he had risen to his present rank of his *excellency's* gentleman; in which he had the unfashionable gratitude to return the favours of his former benefactor in the above manner, which his experience and knowledge of his master's temper convinced him to be the only one he could hope to succeed in. As to his promise about the child, he was in no pain about that, there being no person who could contradict whatever excuse he should please to give.

There is one circumstance, which I see puzzles you, in the character of this man, and that is his taking me from his friend, when he must be sensible how badly he could spare such a sum. But you must consider the power of nature when strengthened by habit.

From his mother, William had inherited venality: which the bribery of vails, in his present profession, had confirmed beyond all possibility of correction; so that it was no more in his power to refuse a guinea when offered to him, than to change his stature or complexion. An attention to this observation would take off the wonder, and ease the world from the trouble of the exclamations that are daily made against the rapacity of persons in office, for such as are generally taken from the class of William, it cannot be expected but they must act from the same natural principles with him.

I see the depravity of human nature, when stripped of disguise, and ornament, affects your unexperienced heart too strongly. But consider, that ~~we~~ we see things as they really are, and to prevent them otherwise to you would invert the design of my mission, and confirm, rather than remove the prejudices that lead astray the mind of man.

However, this consolation I can give you, that the vices I have already drawn, and hereafter draw to your view, are not particular to this age or country: they are the weeds which, in every age and clime, have always, and always will, overrun the human heart.

Nor is it just to call them vices (though in compliance with the language of men I do call them so) *perhaps* are but necessary parts of this universal system; and though in a particular instance, and viewed by themselves, they may appear deformed, yet, when thrown into the general representation of things, they may have their beauty and use, if only to diversify the scene: and with respect to men in particular, be as† advantageous to the community, as they are prejudicial to individuals.

But to return to my master William. Beside the advantages of education, he had such from nature, that he was not only the most accomplished gentleman, but also the handsomest fellow of his time; an happiness, of which he availed himself so well in the polite world, that he was the favorite of all the compliant fair, who shared with him the pleasures they only suffered from his superiors for hire.

Of this I saw sufficient proof that very evening, when he went to an assignation with the most celebrated courtesan of the age, who, sacrificing avarice to pleasure, gave orders to be denied to every body, and shut herself up with him, to give a loose to joy for the evening.

This was a scene too sensual for a spirit to describe: I shall therefore only say that their fatigue and waste of spirits were recruited with the highest delicacies and richest wines, and the pauses of joy enlivened with the recital of the adventures of their professions, heightened with the most poignant ridicule of those whose folly was their fortune.

Before satiety could pall their pleasures, time summoned them to business. The fair, to prepare for the reception of her friend; and my master to wait on his; when, to conclude the evening with proper gallantry, he presented me to the maid at the door-

I was a good deal surprised at being received with less emotion by this portress of Venus than I had ever found before:

† Fables of the bees.

the sight of me having already raised joy. But this was soon explained, when on returning to her mistress, she threw me on the table, and received a shilling in exchange. An instance of that methodical œconomy which my many small savings makes up for one large expense, and extracts profit even from pleasure.

The joy of the mistress seemed to make amends to my vanity for the indifference of her maid, and promised me the full possession of her heart; but I soon found myself mistaken, and that her love for me was only while I was the property of another; for no sooner did I become her own, than she threw me carelessly into her purse, and turned her thoughts immediately to the acquisition of more. But, though I lost the greatest part of my power over her, by coming into her possession, I still found ample room in her heart for my abode.

The apartments were scarce got in order, and my mistress new dressed, when her friend appeared, to whom she flew with all the appearance of rapture. But, however he might be deceived, the difference was plain to me, between the joyless caresses she sold to him, and the extacy she shared with my late master, the glow of whose kisses yet reeked upon her lips. Nor was this strange: the ardor of her lover met her half way, and commenced as much fire as it received: but with her keeper the case was quite otherwise: all the advances were to come from her; all her caresses were a duty; nor were the tenderest she could bestow, able to warm him to the least return.

You wonder that a person in such circumstances should be at the expense and trouble of keeping a mistress, whose extravagance was to be equalled only by her insolence. But this is only a small instance of the tyranny of fashion: and how will your astonishment be increased, when I tell you, that this very man, in the prime of life, was remarkable for the coolness of his constitution, and now its decline was married to a beautiful young lady, whose resentment at his conjugal neglect rose so high, as to charge it to inability.

Whether this was really the case, and that he kept my mistress to hide it, as a failing tradesman sets up a coach, or whether the passion remained, but so feebly supported, as to require the lascivious blandishments of a prostitute, I cannot determine, as I was never in his possession; to a view of his heart.

CHAPTER III

It was about two in the morning, when my mistress received him drunk and stupified with play, at which he had lost deeply that night. On his coming into her room, he threw himself into a chair, without saying a word, or shewing the least sensibility of her caresses; where after some time fell fast asleep, which my mistress no sooner perceived, than calling her maid to undress and roll him into bed, "Here Jane," said she, "take my place by this heap of mortality. I'll step to——street; perhaps the company may not be all gone. Never fear, I'll insure you from a rape! He wants nothing in a bed-fellow but to keep him warm, and you may do that, while I pass my night better than in nursing his infirmities: I'll be home before he stirs."

Jane obeyed her mistress, who slipped into a chair, and went away directly to an house, where she used to piddle away her leisure hours with any chance customers, rather than be idle.

About five ended this scene, in the rites of which my mistress bore a distinguished part. I shall not attempt to describe these mysteries: they were too gross for my relation, as well as your conception, in your present mortified habit. She then returned home, and laying her pure body in her maid's place, beside her friend, who had not stirred yet, her fatigues soon threw her into a sleep, as sound as his.

It was noon before these fond lovers awoke: the first was my mistress, who, enraged that any thing which bore the name of man, should shew so little sensibility of her charms, resolved to teize him with endearments, which, as he was seldom in a humor to return in kind, he never failed to pay for in a more substantial manner.

When she had awoke him with her toying, the syren thus began her song: "How can my dearest sleep so long, when his little girl lies languishing by his side! O turn, and let me lay my head on that dear bosom." "Ha! what is it o'clock?" replied the lover yawning, and rubbing his eyes—"Alas I know not! I have told so many tedious hours, that I have forgot them: but what is time to us, who only live to love?"—"Past twelve! I must be gone! some business"—"Business; leave that for duller souls, who have no taste for pleasure: can you leave love and me for business!"—"I am sorry I happened to oversleep myself, my dear; I believe I was bewitched, to drink so much; but we'll make it up another time."—"So you say always; but that other time will never come: but I will not be served so; I am flesh and blood, whatever other people may be;

and you yourself know, it is not for want of friends I keep myself up, thus like a nun, for you; and all, I do not know for what?"—"Is the girl mad! Do not I give you every thing you want, every thing you desire?"—"No, nor any thing I desire! I desire now—So you will get up and leave me: I will not be used thus: you have got some other woman; but I here give you fair warning, that I will be even with you! Sir George was here yesterday; and so was the young lord—but I would not see either of them: and I am well requited now; but I know where to send to them: I will not be made a fool of every way, for nothing; and so you may sleep where you please, I care not."—"Come, my dear, let us not fall out for nothing: you have not shewn me the diamond ear rings you got last week."—"No, my dear, they are not come home."—"I thought you told me they were finished when I gave you the money to pay for them."—"They were so; but, when he brought them home, I did not like them. The jeweller told me, they were not so fine as those he made for your lady, some time ago; so I sent them back, and ordered him to make me a pair that should be as good as her's at least."—"Not good enough, child! were they not to cost one hundred and fifty pounds?"—"And what is one hundred and fifty pounds?"—"Sir Richard gave his girl a pair that cost five hundred; but, if you think these are too dear, you are not obliged to pay for them: there is another, who will be glad to do it."—"And pray what are these fine ones to cost?"—"Why—only—but kiss me first—only two hundred pounds. But then I have bespoke a necklace with them"—"Zounds, a diamond necklace?"—"And what mighty matter is a diamond necklace? Pray has not your wife one? But I see how it is; you think any thing good enough for me; and nothing good enough for her: but every one does not think so: I am not at a loss."—"Well, you saucy little minx; and what do they all come to?"—"Another kiss, and I'll tell you—why, don't frown! or I won't tell you at all;—only five hundred pounds"—"five hundred devils; that's more than my wife's cost by one hundred."—"And do not you love me a hundred times better than your wife? I have given up thousands for you. But, as I said before, you need not pay for them, if you do not chuse it; there are others who will: I see I am slighted; and I deserve it, for slighting so many good offers: but I will not always be a fool!"—"Well, my dear, for this one time I will humor you: give me the pen and ink: but you must not expect that I shall ever gratify your extravagance so far again."—"I thank you, my lord; I shall not trouble you again this great while. But what is this? Three hundred and fifty pounds! you have made a mistake,

my lord; I told you five hundred pounds."—"Well, child, did I not give you one hundred and fifty to pay for the other pair?"—"Yes, my lord; but that was not to pay for this pair, though you know these are dearer."—"But that and this will."—"I am afraid not."—"How so, child; do not one hundred and fifty and three hundred and fifty make five hundred?"—"Indeed I am a poor accountant; but I know it will not do."—"No! why so; I do not understand you."—"I'll kiss you first, and then I'll tell you."—"Psha! cease fooling; I am in haste; I must go to court: and have scarce time to dress: where is the one hundred and fifty pounds?"—"There," kissing him—"Where?"—"Gone as that kiss is; all gone, and only the relish left behind, to give an appetite for more."—"Infernal jade!" (aside)—"What do you say, my lord?"—"That I cannot, will not bear such extravagance."—"I am glad I know your mind, my lord: then, if you do not somebody else will, who will not make such a stir about trifles."—"Well, give me that bill."—"No, thank you, my dear."—"Why so?"—"For fear you should be a bold boy, and not return it. If you please to give me the other one hundred and fifty pound, I'll get the necklace and earrings, if not, this will serve for some other use."—"Damnation; and then I must give it to her all over again," (aside.)—"Well, my lord; you said you were in haste, and so am I."—"Give me the pen and ink: there it is, you little termagant: but once more let me caution you against such extravagance for the future."—"And once more, let me tell you, my lord; not to give yourself such airs: extravagance! they that will have delicacies, must pay for them: and, if you think the price too dear, there are more customers in the market; and so, my lord, like it, or like it not, I will be supported: and more than that, what I want in pleasuse, shall be made up in profit: let wives save, who may be the better for the savings, our business is to make hay while the sun shines."—"Come, my dear; let us have no disputes; you have the money now; next time we will clear off the other score: give me a kiss, I'll call in the evening, and take a dish of tea with you: farewell."—"Good morrow"——(after he is gone) for an old impotent, poor spirited letcher, that must be treated like a dog to make you known your duty. What fool would ever be at the trouble of behaving well to any fellow, when she can, so much better, mould him to her pleasure by ill usage!"

CHAPTER IV.

THIS principle she acted up to, for two days that I was in her possession, without any other variation in her conduct, than just what was necessary to work on the various tempers of her lovers, making no real difference between them, except it was, that she always used those worst, who used her best.

I have often told you, that sensuality is disagreeable to a spiritual being. I therefore longed to quit this mistress, the succession of whose amours was so constant and quick, that I was astonished how nature could afford a fund of love for them all, in so young a creature, for she was not twenty years old.— I see you have a curiosity to know the history of this young votary of Venus, in which you think there must be something extraordinary: but you are deceived; it contains nothing but common occurrences.

She was the daughter of tradespeople, in moderate circumstances, whose foolish fondness, because she was a pretty, smart child, gave her an education above her rank, in hopes of her making her fortune by marriage.

This raised the vanity, natural to the female heart, so high, that she despised her own station, and not being so fortunate as immediately to climb to the one she desired, by the way proposed, she fell an easy victim to the first seducer who promised it, in any other.

Thus the accomplishments, by which the injudicious tenderness of her parents meant to raise her into a rank higher than their own, became the cause of her falling into that of the lowest of all human beings: a fall, though deplorable in itself, yet unaffecting to her, as the time, in which her mind should have been formed to virtue, was given up to the nourishing that vanity which proved her ruin; so that she is absolutely insensible of the wretchedness of her condition, and never has the pursuit of her most infamous profession been disturbed by a moment's remorse.

I told you of her spending the hours that were unemployed at home, at a house in ——— street, where she was always sure of business. Though this venerable mansion was dedicated to the mysterious rites of unrestrained love, yet, as the priests of all temples expected to live by the offerings made at them, her conscience would not permit the priestess of this to break through an ordinance so long established, and she exacted fees from the votaries of her's: not indeed a tythe, indiscriminately from all, whether they received benefit from their

devotion, or not; but always in proportion to the fruits they reaped.

At this shrine was I offered, the third night of my being in the possession of this young devotee, when the plenteousness of her gain, from a multitude of lovers, seemed, to her piety, to merit so rich a return.

I now entered into a much more extensive scene than my last, the prostitution of which made but a small part of the business of the profession. But what I have related, in the history of my late mistress, shall suffice for that branch, nor shall I give more than some outlines of the horrors of the rest.

My new mistress had originally been of the sisterhood of my last, who having fallen a prey to lust, almost in her infancy, and having no beauty, nor any thing but extreme youth to recommend her, as soon as that was worn out, neglect obliged her to apply to other business for bread, and her natural turn determining her to this, as well as the outrageous virtue of the undiscovered part of her own sex, excluding her from every other, she changed her occupation, from yielding, to providing pleasure, in which her success was so great, that she soon became the most eminent of her profession.

It was near five in the morning when I changed my service; and, business being ended, my late mistress having reigned sole mistress of the night, and seen out all the company, there remained nothing to do, after she went home, but to see the inmates to their truckle beds in the cocklofts, where stripping off every part, not only of the finery, but even of the comforts of dress, they were crowded three or four together, to keep each other warm, under a ragged coverlet, upon a bare mattress, where their shudderings and groans made a just contrast to the spirited wickedness of their conversation some hours before.

This was always the fate of those who were not so successful in the evening as to earn the price of a better bed, above the fees of the house, and hire of clothes.

These happy few were treated with fondness, while they squandered their poor peculium in a drop of cordial to settle their heads, and were lodged in apartments suited to their purses; though the night before perhaps they had experienced the same fate with their sisters above stairs, and knew they must expect it again the next, if unsuccessful in their business.

When matters were thus settled, this happy family disposed themselves to take the best repose which disease in mind and body would permit.

An active spirit disdains rest. Though debauchery had anticipated old age, in the constitution of my mistress, yet her

application to business made her refuse nature even necessary indulgence. She was ready to go out before ten that morning, when the modest decency of her dress and appearance were such as drew the general good opinion, and would almost deceive the devil himself, on whose most favorite service she was going.

CHAPTER V.

If a judgment were to be formed for the whole day, from the manner of beginning it, my mistress should have spent her's most happily; her first visit being to church, where the piety of her behavior was an edification to the devout matrons, who, having nothing to do at home, meet there regularly, to compare their aches and dreams of the night before, and enjoy the innocent amusement of a little gossiping over the affairs of their neighbors.

But her devotion wasted not itself so fruitlessly: her industry had formed expectations of drawing considerable advantage from it, and so anticipating futurity, and making sure of the reward here, which others waited for in another world. The immediate motive of her devotion, this morning, was to see a young lady with whom she had commenced an acquaintance at this church, and who constantly attended divine service there. You are surprized how she could think of going to such a place, on such an errand; but the wolf roams about for prey every where, and is often most successful, where his attempts are least suspected: though I must rob her industry of the merit of design in the first introduction to this affair.

Going through St. Martin's Lane, one morning, about a month before, she was so struck with the appearance of a lovely young creature, in widow's weeds, who was going into the church, that she followed her; where the fervency, with which she poured out her soul in devotion, gave such a lustre to her beauty, and made it shine so lovely through her grief, that my mistress immediately marked her for her list, not doubting but she should be able to turn her distress to such advantage, as should bring her into her measures, and make her beauty yield her a rich return for her pains, from some of her customers. If you consider the nature of woman kind, you will not wonder at this instance of the profligacy of my mistress. They are ever in extremes; either the best or worst of human creatures.-- From church she dogged her to her lodging, in a little court, where she lived with a poor, but honest family, in such priva-

cy, that no one in the neighborhood could give any account of her.

Real virtue shines with a lustre, that dazzles the most confirmed vice, and keeps it at an awful distance. My mistress, hardened as she was in all the ways of sin and impudence, dared not to go directly to her, without some business or introduction: but, as she had not either, her ready genius prompted her to win her good opinion, under an appearance of religion, and then an acquaintance would come easily.

She was not deceived in her expectations: a few mornings constant attendance at church, and the exemplary warmth of her devotions, struck the eye, and opened the heart of unexperienced innocence to the acquaintance she wished for, which she did not fail to improve, by the same arts, to some degree of intimacy.

In this situation they were, when she went, but without any appearance of design, to meet her this morning at church, as usual. As they came out together, my mistress turning with her fair friend, said she had some business into Long-Acre, and asked her, if she went that way, to which the young lady innocently answered, that she did, and should be glad to walk with her.

As they walked together, my mistress turned her conversation on the wicked ways of the town, and particularly the many base designs that were laid to insnare unwary innocence, adding, that all the pleasures which sensuality could give the most luxurious heart, must fall infinitely short of what she felt at that very moment, in the design she was then going upon, of relieving the distress of a worthy family.

She had timed her discourse so as to say these words, just as she came to the entrance of the court in which she knew the widow lived, when, feigning to slip, she fell all along, crying out, as in the utmost agony, that she had wrenched her ankle.

The lady, raising her with the greatest tenderness, expressed her concern for the unhappy accident, and desired she would submit to be helped into her lodgings, which fortunately were at the next door, where, though she could be but poorly accommodated, she might be more at her ease than in a more sumptuous place, and should have all the care in her power. This was just what my mistress had schemed for, who, courteously accepting the offer made a shift to limp in, without any other assistance than her's.

It raised my indignation to see the tenderness with which the beautiful young creature pulled off her shoe and stocking, and chafed her ankle, thrown away upon so unworthy an object, as it did my abhorrence to hear the counterfeit shrieks and groans

of my mistress, and the assurance with which she attributed the swellings caused by debauchery to this immediate accident.

This affrighted the young lady so, that she in a manner forced her to send for a surgeon, which with much intreaty she yielded to do; but it must be for a friend of her own, a gentleman who lived a considerable way off, at the polite end of the town, for she could not think of letting any common low lived fellow come near her.

Upon this a porter was directly dispatched for her own surgeon, and in the mean time, as she began to grow easier, she recovered her spirits, and renewed the conversation that had been broken off by this accident.

"I was telling you, my dear friend," said she, "for so I shall ever call you from this moment; your kindness having completed the conquest which your beauty had before made of my heart. I was telling you, that I was going to visit a family this morning, where I promised myself the highest joy that a human heart is capable of feeling, in lightening the distress of the virtuous, by sharing with them some of that wealth which heaven has abundantly blessed me with, and which can justly be applied to no other use, than making this grateful return to that goodness which bestowed it.

"But my heart was too elate with the thought, and I received this accident as a caution from heaven not to flatter myself with any thing so strongly for the future. But, though I could not have this pleasure myself, the benefit shall not be delayed to them. I will make you my almoner; an office that I know will suit the goodness of your heart. You shall give this packet, which will put at end to all their distresses."

"Oh madam! your good opinion is the greatest honor to me," replied the lady, "and I hope I shall never forfeit it, especially in this commission, which I shall undertake with the most sincere joy; but pray, dear madam, who are the persons to whom I must dispense your goodness?"

"That's true, my dear," returned my mistress, "I should give you some account of them, that you may be the better able to judge of the joy I feel in serving them. It is the widow of an officer, who has been killed in this war, and left her with three poor babes, destitute of every support but the allowance of the government, which, wretched as it is, and only aggravating misery by barely prolonging life under it, is often gasped for by the hungry mouth in vain, where interest is wanting to procure the immediate relief of it, as was her unhappy case, so that they must have actually perished for want of food, had not Providence brought them into my knowledge, seemingly by the greatest accident, about six months ago, since when, I have

myself afforded them the necessary comforts of life, and have also made such interest for them, with some of my friends, that I have here got them a grant of pension on the *Irish establishment*, sufficient to bring up the children, and make the remainder of the mother's days happy; for, my dear, I never do any thing by halves—Good God! child; what is the matter with you? what do you weep so for?”——“Nothing, dear madam,” replied the lady, “nothing; I only sympathize in the distress of the poor widow.”——“But my dear, that distress is now at an end.”——“O madam, let me carry her the blessing! let me not delay her happiness a moment! Who knows but her heart is this minute bursting with dreadful apprehensions of want for herself, and her dearer infants!”——“With all my heart, madam; but you will please to order a chair to be called to carry me home, when you go; for I cannot stay here alone.”——Dear madam, forgive my rudeness; I beg your pardon, pray forgive me: the distress of the widow put every thing out of my head; indeed it did; pray excuse me.”——“Excuse you, my dear; I honor the heart that feels another's woe; you shall go directly; you shall be the messenger of glad tidings to them. But, my dearest young lady, give me leave to tell you, that I fear you have not answered me sincerely; I fear your tears flow from some other cause, than mere sympathy; speak, my child! does any thing affect your own heart? Can I any way be serviceable to you? Command me freely, and make me happy in serving one for whom my heart has conceived so tender an esteem! “Speak as you would to your own mother, and wrong not my friendship with a doubt.”——“O madam, madam!” replied the mourner, as soon as sobbing permitted utterance, “I have no mother to make my complaint to; I am the wretched widow you have described! A widow without support, without friends, or any other hope than just in heaven!”——“And heaven will raise you friends, my dearest child! heaven has raised you a friend in me! You shall be my child! I look upon you as my own! as a gift from heaven, from this moment! You shall leave this place this very day! it is not fit for my child! I will take a lodging for you near myself, till my nephew, who is lately come to town to see me, goes home; and then you shall live with me for ever.

Saying these words, she threw her arms round her destined victim, and wiped away the tears that flowed down her cheeks, while a variety of passions filled her tender heart almost to bursting.

CHAPTER VI.

WHEN she had recovered herself a little my mistress thus resumed her lore: "Weep not, my dearest child, all will be well. And have you any dear little infants too?"—"Oh no! my wretchedness, thank heaven, is all my own!"—"But may I, my dear, ask your name, and the circumstances of your story! I would know all, that nothing may be unredressed."—"You are all goodness, madam! My story, alas, has few circumstances, and they are all distresses! I lost my mother while I was yet a child: my father left me in the country to the care of a governess, the wife of his chaplain, who educated me in the sentiments of piety and virtue. When I was scarce fourteen, I returned the love of her son, the most deserving and most lovely of his sex, who was two years older than me: but, young as we were, we concealed our passion, till my father obtained him a commission in the army; when, on the regiment's being ordered to America, I yielded to his fears of losing me, and consented to a private marriage, which was soon discovered by a letter falling into my father's hands, who in his rage, turned my husband's father and mother and me, out of doors, nor would even see us more. A small vicarage afforded us a present support. My mother-in-law soon died; the suspicion of her having betrayed the confidence of my father, and been instrumental in my marriage, breaking her heart; as did the account of her husband's death, his father's. I then was left quite destitute; and have since supported a wretched being, by my work, which the honest woman of this house takes in for me, without the least hope of relief in this world, till your goodness has, this day taken compassion on me."—"And what is your father's name; my dear."—"That I have never yet revealed; as I would willingly hide the disgrace my distress may be thought to him; but with you I need not use that caution; his name is."—"Just at this word, the surgeon who had been sent for to my mistress, entered, and presented a new scene.

At the first sight of this person, the young lady gave a great shriek, and swooned away. The gentleman stood a moment stupified with astonishment, when turning hastily to my mistress, "Is this the lady?"—said he—"Aye, and a lovely one she is," answered she, "but help me to raise her up, when you will see her better; she has been just telling me her story, and the grief of it has overcome her! it is a moving one; and she must be our own."

"O my child! my child!" exclaimed he in a transport, and, spurning my mistress from her with his foot, raised her himself, and leaned her head upon his bosom, kissing her, and almost smothering her with his tears. "Oh, my poor child! what have you escaped! what have you endured!"

It is impossible to describe the situation of my mistress at this scene. She saw the error she had been guilty of, in introducing a woman to whom she was a stranger; and was aware of the danger with which the horror of such an interview, on such an occasion, threatened her. While therefore, the father seemed wrapped in an ecstasy that made him as insensible as his daughter, she thought it her best way to retire from the first burst of his anger, and, forgetting her sprained ankle, was directly away; but he perceived her intent, and calling her with a voice that nailed her to the ground, "Stir not, upon your life, said he, I will have this whole mystery cleared up."

His daughter, just then, opening her eyes, and finding herself laid upon her father's bosom, love, respect, duty, fear, and joy, filled her heart with such a variety of passions, that she sunk under their weight, and swooned away.

This embarrassed the father almost to distraction, till the woman of the house coming in, with her assistance she was at length recovered, for my mistress was so terrified, that she did not dare to approach her.

As soon as the lady had lightened her heart by a flood of tears, she threw herself at her father's feet, unable either to look up, or speak to him. Moved with the mute eloquence of her grief, and melting in the warmth of nature, he raised her from the ground, and spoke to her in these words: "Be comforted, my child! I am, I will be your father. But tell me what has passed between you and this vile woman!"—"Oh, sir, is she not my best, my only friend? has she not restored me to your love?"—"Have I care, child! she your friend? then you are lost beyond recovery indeed! She is a reproach to her sex! to human nature!"—"Oh sir! how can that be? did she not bring you here to me? does not that shew her virtue and compassion to my distress?"—"Compose yourself a little, child! it is true, she brought me here; but tell me, I charge you, on what terms she told you I was to come; and how she came to interest herself in your affairs! Fear not, but speak the truth."

On this she told him the whole of her acquaintance with my mistress, and by what accident and in what character she imagined he had been sent for; but that, as soon as she saw him enter the room, she thought my mistress must have been acquainted with her story, and had taken this method of intro-

ducing her to him, in hopes the surprize, and sight of her distress, might operate on his compassion.

Truth forces conviction. He was satisfied with the account she gave him; and taking her again in his arms, "I have found you again, my child," said he, "and I will never lose you more! Be the errors of your youth, be my severity forgotten! From henceforth you are my child, and I will be your father! as to that vile wretch, know, that her whole acquaintance with you was sought with a premeditated design of betraying you to ruin. She told me the whole, nearly as you have done: and encouraged by your distress, of which she had gotten some general hints, but ignorant who you were, she laid the scheme of this pretended accident, to get admission into your house: for she well knew where you lived; and then sent for me to a place I had appointed, that I might come and see you, under the appearance of a surgeon; that if I liked you, I might have the preference of her interest in you: for so deep had she laid her scheme, that you could not have escaped her: the trial would have been too great for human fortitude! and this most execrable mystery of iniquity did she undertake for the paltry reward of fifty pounds, which I must take the shame upon myself to own, I had promised her, little imagining that I was bargaining for the seduction of my own innocent child. But I see, I acknowledge the hand of heaven in this whole affair, that has thus opened my eyes to the danger of such a licentious course of life, and made the recovery of my child the means, and the reward of my conversion.

"Weep not, my dear; justly may you turn your eyes with detestation from such a fiend: But I shall take care that she meets a just reward; while you prepare to go home with me, for I will not leave you a moment in this scene of horror."—"Oh, mercy, mercy, my lord!" cried my mistress, "have mercy on me! nor overwhelm with your anger a wretched creature, whose remorse is a load too great to bear."—"Away, vile wretch," replied he, in a rage, "nor dare to speak another word! and here fellow," calling to the porter who had directed him to the house, "bring me the parish constable."

While the porter went for him, my mistress, wretched now indeed; her guilty fear magnifying her danger, stood trembling, but afraid to essay his pity with another word.

After he had walked a turn or two about the room, his daughter entered, and with her the woman of the house with her little effects, which were soon packed up; at the sight of them his countenance softened: "Well, my dear," said he to his daughter, "I see you are ready to come with me; but I must wait a moment to do justice to the wretch who brought me hi-

ther. Plead not for her! I would not have you ever sue me in vain, again; and to any thing in her favor I cannot yield! But my justice shall not be only severe, nor confined to her alone. You have said that this honest woman has been a friend to you! she shall be rewarded. Here, good woman is the sum of money I was to have given this vile creature for my daughter in another sense. Take it as the reward of your honesty and kindness to her; and call on her every year of your life for the same sum.

The poor woman took it with reverence, but was unable to speak her gratitude, her heart was so full, while his daughter dropped suddenly on her knees, and, raising her hands and eyes to heaven, exclaimed in rapture, "Oh pour thy blessings, heaven, on his head, who thus dispenses happiness on all who merit it!"—As she said these words, the constable came, into whose charge his lordship gave my mistress, to be taken to a justice of the peace, whither he appointed to follow her; and then handed his daughter into a coach, in which he took her directly home.

CHAPTER VII.

As soon as this happy couple were gone, my mistress recovered her spirits, and smiled with contempt at a danger she had often gone through before, without harm. "And so," says she, "master constable, I am given in charge to you! and for what pray? But I am no such novice, as to yield myself a prisoner, till I see proper authority to hold me; therefore, sir, I shall wish you a good morning: if you please, you may go tell his lordship, that I was not at leisure to wait for him at the justice's; and, because you may be dry after your walk, here is a crown to drink my health.

"I thank you mistress," replied the magistrate, taking the money, "but, in the mean time, you must come! I am sorry I cannot let you go."—"Cannot let me go? pray, sir, where is your authority to keep me?"—"Here mistress!" producing his staff—"But your warrant!"—"Oh! as for that, I'll make bold to do without one this time, and take you to the justice on my own authority, and his lordship's request; and so, mistress, you had better come along, for I am in haste; you may have a coach if you please."—"Aye, so I will, to carry me home! and here's something for you to pay the coachman," putting a guinea in his hand.—"Tis very well, mistress, I will see you safe home, to be sure, if you desire it, and the justice gives you leave; for to him we must go directly."—

"Then give me my money; and be assured you shall answer for this false imprisonment."—"Your money, mistress! why, aye! so I will, if I do not earn it."—"Then let me go home this moment."—"No, no, mistress! that I cannot do till you have been to visit his worship; and then I will see you safe home, if he gives me leave, and drink your health into the bargain; and that was what you gave me the money for: come, come, mistress! one of your trade should know better things than to ask for money back again! Have I not shewed you all the civility in my power? Do you think I would stand preaching with you here this hour for nothing! come along, the coach is at the door."

I saw you were surprized at the address and turn of expression in my mistress's conversation with this young lady, before the arrival of her father, as above her sphere; but nature had given her a capacity equal to any thing, and her intercourse with the polite world had gained her an ease of behaviour, and elegance of expression, that made every condition of life seem natural to her. As to the story of the family, whom she was going to relieve, she had actually prepared one of her confederates to have acted that part, so that the lord might justly say, her design was laid so well, that it was next to impossible for her to miss of success. For, by this deceit, she would have gained the young lady's confidence, to receive favors from her, and, when she had her in her debt, she thought she could make her own terms.

As soon as my mistress and her conductor were come into the antichamber of justice, the clerk recognizing her, addressed her thus: "Good morrow, mistress—Pray what has got us the favor of your company! You have been so great stranger of late, that I was beginning to think we had lost you."—"Pray, sir," said she, "let me speak a word with you in the next room."—On which he ordered her to be shewn in, and only waited to ask the constable, by whom, and for what she was sent there, who was able to give him no other answer, than that the lord had ordered him to bring her, and said he would follow himself directly.

Having got this full information, the clerk came into the room to my mistress, and told her, with a look of importance and concern, that he was sorry to see her on so bad an account—"So bad an account, sir?" said she, "why! pray what do you think I am brought here for? nothing in this world! they can charge me with nothing but intention; and I hope that is not punishable by the law!"—"I hope it will appear so," replied he, "but, shrugging up his shoulders, my lord has sent a message here, that has another appearance!"—"And pray, sir,

what does my lord charge me with?"—"You'll excuse my revealing the secrets of a privy counsellor! He will be here too soon, I am afraid, to tell you himself."

Versed as my mistress was in all the wiles of man, the look and manner of his saying these words alarmed her conscious fears. "Pray, sir," said she, "what has his lordship said? or, if you do not think proper to tell me that, at least, you can direct me how to make the best defence against his designs! I shall not be ungrateful! you know I never was."—"Why that's true, madam," replied he, "and indeed I should take great pleasure in serving you, and getting you out of this hole; but my lord, you know, is a great man, and can, in a manner, do what he pleases with poor people."—"Pray, sir, can I speak a word to the justice?"—"I fear he is engaged just now; besides, it is so long since he has seen or heard from you, that I believe you must expect but little favor from him."—"Why that is the very thing I would speak to him about; and believe me, it was my business out so early this morning, till I was delayed by this unlucky accident."—"As for that matter, you know you may say any thing to me, as well as to him, and I can tell him."—"That is true: why, all I have to say to him, at present, is to beg his acceptance of these five guineas for his past favors, and his advice how to get out of this scrape; and pray do you take these three for your trouble. I am sorry I have no more to offer, but really the times are very bad, and little or no money stirring among the gentlemen; beside, all my ladies have been very unlucky of late, and the doctor you know, must be always paid in hand."—"I am sorry things go so badly with you; I will speak to the justice, and let you know what he says, and you may depend on my friendship and interest at all times; though I am afraid this is a very bad affair. I will go to him directly, and return to you as soon as possible."

I here left my mistress to her meditations, having been one of the pieces she had given to the clerk. You may imagine I was glad to leave such a service, though I could not promise myself much pleasure, beside variety, in the exchange, from what I had already seen of that, which I was entering into.

The justice was in his office, busied in examining the informations of some of his people, who had made some lucky hits the evening before. On a wink from his clerk, they were all ordered to withdraw, when reaching me, and four more of my brethren, to his worship; "Here, sir," said he, "five guineas from Mrs. ———."—"So, then," replied he, "she has thought proper to come at last."—"To come? no, no, sir! she has been brought, or else I believe you would have hardly seen

her."—"The ungrateful jade; but what is the matter now?"—"I really cannot well tell; nor does the constable know any more, than that my lord ——— ordered him to bring her, and said that he should follow himself."—"My lord? then I must be ready to receive him properly: He is a great man: quick! reach me my green velvet cap, red slippers, and new gown, and open half a score of those books, the largest of them, and lay them on that great table, as if I had been referring. There! now I look like a justice! and bid those gentry, I was speaking to, go backwards till my lord is gone: He must not see such faces; they might prejudice him against us; and he is a great man: so! now I'll open the *new Justice*, and his lordship may come as soon as he pleases.

Just as all things were thus prepared for his lordship's reception, in proper formality, a servant brought a note from him, to let his worship know, he could not come himself that morning, but desired he would take proper care of the woman he had ordered to be taken before him, who kept an house of bad fame in such a street, where, upon the least enquiry, he would not fail to find sufficient matter against her, from her neighbors.

Though his lordship's not coming was a disappointment to his worship, after the preparations he had made to receive him; and balked him of an important advertisement for the next morning; yet the general wording of this note gave him some consolation, as it might seem to authorize any measures he might please to take, to squeeze the criminal before him.—"This may do," said he to his clerk, "this may do something: but we must proceed with caution, for Mrs. ——— is an old hand: let her be called in; I'll soften her a little first, and then you may work upon her after as you please."

As soon as she came in, his worship accosted her thus:—So mistress; this is a fine affair; I knew what your doings would come to, at last; I have often warned you; but you would take no advice; and now you see the consequence!—Do, make her wittimus! I must wait upon his lordship; and I cannot go till she is committed!"—"Committed! dear your worship, for what must I be committed? I have done nothing."—"No! to be sure, you have done nothing! his lordship would prosecute you so severely for nothing: Look at this letter! do you know this hand writing? His lordship has here given me an account of the whole affair, and desired that I would proceed against you with the utmost rigour of the law! I have already sent to search your house."

This word completed the terrors, into which the sight of his lordship's well known hand had thrown her; and deprived

her of all resolution and presence of mind. She burst into tears, and throwing herself on her knees, "Oh, good your worship! dear Mr. Clerk," said she "advise me: assist me to get over this misfortune; here is my watch; it cost fifty pounds at pawnbroker's but a month ago; it is a repeater! take it, Mr. Justice! Mr. Clerk, here are my rings! they are the only valuable things I have: take them, and help me out at this dead lift: send, and stop the people from going into my poor house; I shall be blown up: the gentlemen will all desert me: I shall be ruined, just when I have brought things to a little bearing: help me but this once, and I never will give you cause to complain of me again; I will always be punctual to my promise."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE work was now done, and, a wink having settled the cue between the justice and his clerk, the latter began thus: If I may presume to advise your worship, though this is a very bad affair to be sure, yet as it is not quite felony, by the statute, I am humbly of opinion that if bail could be got."—"Dear Mr. Clerk, I am obliged to you."—"But then consider, my Lord is a great man."—"That is true, please your worship; but the law is greater than any man, and the law is very tender of the liberty of the subject, and says expressly in the statute *in favore libertatis*, that no person shall be confined that can get bail; and beside, who knows, if she was at liberty, but she might find means to be reconciled to his lordship; and so all would be well."—"Dear Mr. Clerk, that is true; I could easily be reconciled to him; I know how to gain his favour, when his anger is a little cooled."—"Why, Mrs. if you are quite sure of that, I believe we may venture to bail you: but where are your friends?"—"Dear your worship I have no friends; I have nothing to make friends with: I throw myself all upon you, gentlemen!"—"Why really this is a nice case, but if you'll step into the next room, we will consider what can be done for you." "Oh! but send and stop the men that went to my house!"—"Never fear, they were not to go without further orders."

When she was gone out, "Well," said the justice, "this has been a good hit, it makes up for the bad week: but cannot you guess what this matter is?"—"Not a word of it," replied the clerk, "she has not dropped a syllable herself, that could let me the least into it, and I would not discover my ignorance by asking her any questions. But I suppose it is only some trick she has played my lord about a girl, for you know she has often told us, that he was one of her best customers; and boast-

ed of his protection; and if it is no more than that, as I imagine, he will think no more of it, and so the best way is to let her go, for indeed we cannot keep her, if we would; though, to keep up the form, for fear she could smell us out, she must have some bail; and therefore I'll go and fill a bond, and make a couple of our people put on their *bailing cloaths*, and come and sign with her, though I do not think she has money left to pay for the bond, or make the fellows drink: but she has done pretty well already, that is the truth."

Saying this, he went out, and in a little time returned with my late mistress, and two of the fellows, the shabbiness of whose appearance had made his worship order them out of the lord's sight just before, now dressed out like reputable house-keepers, who gravely signed with my mistress, without ever asking what, and, upon her returning a negative shrug, to a wink from the clerk, went out, without a word.

The business was now over, and my late mistress dismissed to follow her occupation, and make up by double diligence, for the misfortunes of that morning, only with an assurance to the clerk, that she would remember his kindness, and be punctual for the future.

I was now entered into a service, where I had an opportunity of seeing into the whole mystery of justice: but you must not expect that I should reveal all the secrets of so venerable a trade; though I may give a few general hints for your information, in so abstruse and intricate a science.

The affair of my late mistress was the last of that morning; my worshipful master putting me into his purse, and going directly to dinner, which had waited for him some time. But, though his fare was good, his care for the public would not permit him to make long meals, or debauch away his time. After a short refreshment of only two hours, he returned to his office, where he reassumed his labors, in all the various branches of his extensive employment.——The first thing he looked into was the informations, which the affair of my mistress had interrupted in the morning, as I told you before: when calling his people, one after another, before him, he went through them regularly, in this manner: "John Gibbet, you here inform me that you have found out the person who took the gentleman's hat, in the quarrel in Chelsea fields, last Sunday evening, which you think to make a robbery of: let me hear the circumstances of that affair, for you are so keen a bloodhound, when you get upon any scent, that you are for making every thing robbery, be the case what it will."

"Please your worship," replied Gibbet, turning the quid in his check, and squirting out the juice, "I do all things for the

beat, and that you know; and that I have brought many things to bear; that no body else would undertake, as witness that affair on Shuter's hill, that got you so much credit and money too."—"Why, that's true, John; but then you should remember also the cursed scrape you brought me into about the young fellow who wrote the threatening letters to the farmer, about burning his barns; you undertook to prove that too: but you know how you left me in the lurch, after I had gone such lengths as had like to have ruined me. Plain swearing will not always do, though never so home; you should remember that: you should attend to circumstances also: but, as to this affair, let me hear what you can make of it."

"Your worship must know, that I, and two or three more of our people, have nothing to do, shammed a quarrel, in which a gentleman who was coming by lost his hat. It was a large hat, with a very broad gold lace, such as your foreigners wear; it was I that shoved off the hat, and seeing a shabby idle looking young fellow standing by, without one, I took it up, and, asking him if it was his, reached it to him, and saw him make off with it directly. Now, if this is not a plain robbery, I do not know what is! a fellow runs away with a gentleman's hat, who advertises it, with a reward for taking the thief, whom he will prosecute! now I have found out the fellow's haunts, for indeed I dogged him, and will have himself whenever you please, and can clench the prosecution, by swearing that I saw him carry off the hat; and you know I need say no more, nor take any notice who gave it to him."

"Why, John, there, may be something in this affair. I like it very well, John; and so, clerk, you may enter him on the list for next sessions. This affair has a good look; nor is there any thing unjust in it; for though you gave him the hat, as he knew it was his own, and yet carried it off, he is guilty of the theft, and that is the same as robbery, in justice, though it may not in law: and justice is the thing to go by, with a safe conscience. And so you may go, John: I will let you know when it is proper to have him taken up, only have an eye to him, for fear any one should snap him out of our hands.—Who comes next?—Richard Sly, you say you have found out the knot of young fellows that have begun to infest the streets for some nights past."—"Aye, please your worship," says Sly, shrugging up his shoulders, and grinning, "I have found them out, to be sure: and well I might! for it was I first set them on the lay."—"How Richard! take care of what you say."—"Oh, your worship, never fear Dick Sly for a slippery trick; I know what I say very well: I have known for some time that these youths have been playing a small game, cribbing

from the *all* and building *sconces*, and such like tricks, that there was no taking hold of; I therefore thought it would be right to bring them to justice, at any rate, and so laid the plan of this gang, and entered them into the business myself, and now, whenever you have a mind to *nub* them, you need only take me up, and I can *peach* them all, which will be no bad affair, there are so many of them."—"Why that is true, Richard; but they have done nothing yet that deserves so severe a remedy as the gallows, therefore let them alone; perhaps they may mend: or, if they do not, it will be time enough to take them up when they deserve it more than now. To be sure, your *peaching* them, who first drew them in, is not so very just; but then the law will support you in it, and, while a man has the law on his side, he may laugh at the gallows." And so, Richard, have a good look out till these youths are ripe for Tyburn, and then your harvest will come!"

It would be endless to go through this whole business particularly. Be it sufficient to say, that there was no breach of the laws, which some of his people did not give him an information of, and almost all, as accomplices, while his whole care was to consider, which could turn most to his advantage, in the conviction; and to settle the evidence against them, so as it might be sure not to miscarry.

CHAPTER IX.

WHILE he was in the midst of this business, he was surprised with the news of a highwayman, that moment brought in by a gentleman who had taken him, in the very attempt of robbing him on Turnham Green. This threw the whole house in an uproar,—"An highwayman taken, and by the very party!" exclaimed the justice in an agony of rage and vexation, "This is most unfortunate; there is forty pounds dead loss, beside the shame of it: how shall I support my consequence, if other people can serve the public without my assistance?"—"I wonder who it can be," said the clerk, "I suppose the man on the white mare, or the mask from Putney Common! but whoever it is, something must be done! he must be saved this time, to save our credit, and we may have him the next, ourselves! Here they come: do you keep the gentleman in discourse while I speak to the prisoner, and see how he can come down. I shall readily give you your cue."

Just then entered the gentleman with his prisoner, whom they directly knew to be an old offender, who had long baffled their pursuit: a circumstance, that heightened the vexation of

his being taken by another, and was not a little favorable to him at this time.

His worship received the gentleman most politely, and desired him to sit down a moment, till he should finish a letter. he was writing to the secretary of state, and then he would attend to his business, ordering the prisoner to be removed into another room for the mean time.

He then sat himself down to write with great deliberation, and had just finished, when his clerk came to deliver him a letter from the lord mayor, which he read over attentively, and, saying it was very well, he then turned to the gentleman, and, asking his pardon for making him wait so long, ordered the prisoner to be brought in.

The highwayman appeared now a quite different person from what he did when he was in the room a few minutes before; his looks, which were then clouded with the gloom of listless dejection and despair, being inflamed into the fiercest agitations of phrenzy.

The gentleman shewed his surprise at this change, as did his worship his uneasiness for his own safety, from the fury of so outrageous a madman. As soon as he was secured, the justice addressing himself, with the height of judicial solemnity, to the prosecutor, "Pray, sir," said he, "will you please to inform me what you have to allege against this unhappy person?"—"Sir," replied the gentleman, "all I have to say, is, that he stopped me this afternoon, upon Turnham Green, and, presenting a pistol at me, bid me deliver my money; but being well armed, and having more about me than I chose to lose, instead of my purse I drew a pistol too, and, his missing fire, I grappled with, and took him on the spot, and from thence brought him directly here: that is all I have to say, sir!"

"And pray, sir, what did he say when you had taken him?"—"Not a word, sir, nor has he spoke a syllable since; nor answered any one question he has been asked."—"Aye, 'tis so, poor gentleman, it is so.—And pray, sir, did he make much resistance when you took him?"—"The utmost he was able; but being mounted, and much stronger than him, I soon overpowered him, though not without great danger; for, after I had him down, he drew this knife, and very narrowly missed plunging it into my body! You see what a cut it made in my coat and waistcoat!"—"Aye, poor man, madness is always desperate: I fear, sir, you have been too hasty in this affair."—"How, sir, too hasty, to take a man in the very action of highway robbery? I do not understand you, sir!"

"Sir, I mean that this person is no robber, but an unhappy gentleman of family and fortune who has been for some time

out of his mind: I have been applied to by his relations more than once, to try to have him apprehended, that he might be confined; and, now he is secured they will take proper care of him, that he shall not frighten any body for the future; for I am satisfied, sir, that was all he meant; and that he would not have taken your money, had you offered it to him; I suppose you searched him, when you had overpowered him, poor man, as you justly termed it! Pray, sir, did you find any thing upon him, to make you think he was an highwayman? any watches! jewels! or different purses of money? or more money than you might think it probable a person of his appearance might commonly carry about him?"

"No really: sir, I did not find any thing like what you mention! this purse which seems to have about thirty or forty guineas in it, for I have not reckoned them, was the only thing in all his pockets, except the knife which he drew on me; his pistols were openly in his saddle, as gentlemen commonly wear them."

"Very, well, and does not his present behaviour, and whole conduct in this affair, convince you, that the unhappy man could have no felonious intent, in his mad attack upon you? for men, mad as he is, have no intention at all; and, without a felonious intent, there can be no robbery: but, I presume, you may understand something of the law yourself, sir?"

"No, indeed, sir, I cannot say I know any more law than just not to wrong any person, nor let them wrong me, if I can help it, as far as common sense will direct me, I thank God, I have spent my days quietly in the country, and never had a dispute with any man in my life."

"Common sense, dear sir! common sense is a blind guide in matters of law! law and common sense are quite different things; but as I was saying, sir, where there is no felonious intent, there can be no felony; now robbery is punished only because it is felony, for so the indictment must be laid; *felonice*, sir, *felonice*, or it will not do! The indictment will be quashed without that word; and who can charge a man with a felonious intent, who is disordered in mind, and can have no intention at all? 'Tis true, the appearance was bad, and sufficiently terrifying, to authorise your apprehending him; but, as you suffered neither loss nor hurt, I cannot suppose that a gentleman of your humane appearance would desire to add to the misery of his present unhappy condition, that of imprisonment till the next session, when he must be acquitted of course, as that would certainly make his madness forever incurable.—Whatever expense you have been at in bringing him here, I will take upon me to reimburse you out of the money in his purse, beside what grati-

fication you please to require, for your own time and trouble! This, sir, is what I would recommend to you, as a christian and a gentleman, as you appear to be: but, if you are of another opinion, you must only swear to your information, and enter into recognizance of prosecution, while I sign his *mittimus*, and send word to his friends, who are people of condition." "Indeed, sir, you judge very rightly of me; I would not aggravate the distress of any human being. If you know the unhappy man, and that he is under so severe an affliction, as the loss of reason, I have nothing farther to say, than that I am sorry for his misfortune, and would not for the world be the cause of heightening it, as I had no motive for apprehending him, but the duty which I and every member owe the public. I thank heaven for my own escape from him, and do not desire to make any advantage of it. As to the people who assisted me in bringing him hither, they are still unpaid, and you know best how to deal with them; so I leave the whole affair to you, and your humble servant."

I have not interrupted this account with any notice of the behaviour of the criminal, as it consisted only of the most outrageous imitation of madness, with imprecations and blasphemies, too horrid for repetition.

As soon as the gentleman was gone, and the room cleared of all but the justice, his clerk, and the *madman* who was left bound to keep up the farce, his worship thus addressed him: "So, sir, you thought to reign for ever; but you see what your fates have come to! I suppose you are surprised at the pains I have taken to bring you through this affair!"—"Not at all, sir," replied the criminal, "the bank note for two hundred pounds which I had concealed in the sleeve of my coat, and gave your clerk."—"How, sir," said the justice in a rage, "do you pretend to say it was upon any such account: But you judge of others by yourself. However, I shall not stand to argue the matter with you now; you have escaped for this time, and may be glad of it! but take care for the future! your luck may not always be so good."—"Will your worship please to order your people to return my horse and arms? and I hope you will give me my purse; for life without something to support it is no great obligation":—"What, sir! do you pretend to capitulate? Your horse, you shall have, not that you have any right to expect him, but because it would not be proper to keep him, after the representation that imposed upon the fool who took you; and here are half a score guineas to carry you to some place where you are not known, and to maintain you till you can get into some honest way of earning your bread. The rest is little enough to give the people instead of your horse, and to

stop their mouths. You may stay here till the crowd is dispersed, when you may go where you may please.—As there was no remedy, the criminal was forced to submit; nor indeed did he seem much dissatisfied at the heaviness of his composition.

CHAPTER X.

It was now pretty late, and my master was just retiring to supper, pleased with having made so good a day, when he was stopped by more business. A woman who kept a chandler's shop, in the next street, had dragged before him one of her poor neighbors, whom she had caught in the very act of stealing a pound of cheese off her counter, as she was reaching a two penny loaf from the shelf: a crime that was heightened by ingratitude too, as she was giving her the loaf on trust; the thief having owned to her, that she had not a farthing in the world to pay for it, nor a morsel to give her three small children, who had been fasting the whole day.

Enraged at the heinousness of the crime, and at being kept from supper, while the chickens and asparagus were cooling on the table, his worship, knitting his brows, and putting on all the magistrate, asked the trembling wretch, with a voice that pierced her soul,—“What she had to say for herself, and whether she was guilty of the crime laid to her charge, or not.”—

The poor creature, almost dead with wretchedness, want, and fear, threw herself at his feet, and pouring out a flood of tears, that for some moments choked her utterance, “O mercy! mercy!” said she, “for the love of the sweet Jesus, have mercy, on a poor wretch, whom want alone compelled to this first offence, to save the lives of three poor infants, who are this moment perishing with hunger. Oh! send and prove the truth of what I say; send and learn their misery, and it will move you to relieve them, and then I care not what becomes of me.” —“Very fine truly! if we admit such excuses for shoplifting, there will be enough ready to plead them. Here make her *mittimus*; she confesses the fact; as for her brats, bastards too, I suppose let them be sent to the work house.” —“Oh the poor creatures! they are not bastards; and they have no parish to be sent to. My husband is a sailor, who was pressed on board of a man of war six years ago, and has been in the West Indies ever since, till this summer; when the ship was ordered home to be laid up. Poor soul! he thought he should be paid off, and so wrote me word to Cork to come to him, for he meant to go and settle in Scotland, his own country; but, the

moment he came to Portsmouth, he was turned over into another ship, without getting a shilling of his six years wages or prize money, and sent away directly to America; so, that, after spending every penny I had in the world, to come to him from Ireland, as he desired, I am left here with my poor children to starve in a strange place, where nobody has any compassion for me, though my husband wrote me word, that he had above three hundred pounds due to him for wages and prize money; here is his letter! I never go without it; it is all the comfort I have in my distress."

"Aye, I thought so! I thought you were one of those *Irish* thieves that came to rob us: and cut our throats; but I shall take care of you! I shall make you wish you had continued eating potatoes at home. I wish I could provide as well for every one of your country! we shall never be well, till we have hanged you all."—"Oh good your worship! I am no thief, I never stole any thing before, and this woman who has brought me before you, knows the truth of every thing I have told your worship; and that I have always paid her honestly while I had a penny in the world, for I have dealt with her ever since I came to London; but hunger, and the cries of three starving children forced me to this! Oh my children, my children?"—"Peace, woman! all you can say signifies nothing; you were taken in the act, and to Newgate you shall go directly. And, as for your brats, it is better for them to die of hunger now, than to live to be hanged like their mother."

By this time the *mittimus* was ready, which he signed without the least hesitation or pity, and then hurried away to his supper, having almost fretted his bowels out, to think it was spoiled by waiting so long.

But, though the justice's compassion could not be moved by such a *poor* wretch, his clerk was not so inexorable, but yielded to the persuasion of an honest *tar*, who seeing a crowd at the door, had given sixpence to go in, and see the *fun*; and for two guineas, *which barely paid the fees*, ventured to make up the affair, and let her go about her business, *though he did not know what might be the consequence, if it should come to his worship's knowledge*.—Jack took no notice of what he said, but taking the poor creature, who was just sinking under the agitations of fear, joy, and gratitude, by the hand—"Cheer away, sister," said he, "cheer away; we'll bring up all this lee way, next trip. Damn my eyes and limbs, if I'll see a brother seaman's family at short allowance, while I have a shilling! come, heave a head; I'll rig and victual you and your children, against your husband comes, to man you for a voyage home. I'll swing my hammock in the next birth, and you shall cool the kettle,

while I stay ashore."—Saying which words, he led her off in triumph.—This the clerk told his worship, when he came in to supper, giving him one of the guineas, as his share of the composition.

I now thought the business of the day over, and was preparing to take a view of my new master's heart, while he and his clerk were enjoying their success over an hearty bottle.—But I was prevented by an accident, which disturbed for a while, and had like to have entirely broken off, this harmony between them; a dispute, like those between all conquerors, arising about the division of the spoil, and the merit in the acquisition of it.

"This will do," said his worship, clapping his hands a kimbo, after a full glass, "this will do! what between the bawd in the morning and the highwayman in the afternoon, we have made a noble day of it! But what have you ordered about that fellow? I hope you have taken care that we may have him ourselves next," "Never fear," replied the clerk, "I have done for him. I have sent people to *lay* all the roads he can go, from the inn where he ordered his horse; and *plausible Tom* is fixed there, to scrape an acquaintance with him, so that he cannot escape."

"Aye, let Tom alone to manage him; many a cunning fellow's heart has that Tom crept into, till he had wheedled him to Tyburn! Not a lawyer of them all has a smoother tongue. But did not I improve the hint of his madness well? how quietly the gudgeon swallowed it! If I were to set about it, I believe in my soul, I could have persuaded him out of his own senses, and made him think himself mad, as well as the highwayman! ha! ha! ha! though you were not quite clear enough in your note; you should have told me all the particulars; I was often at a loss; but upon the whole, I think I did pretty well; pretty well, I think!"

"Why aye, you did so manage it pretty well when I had given you the *cue*, and so might any one have done. But how would you have contrived to bring him off, if I had not made that hit?"—"How!—why easily enough!—I would have——But what have you done with the bank note! let me see that!"—"The note! it is safe enough. But you do not tell me, how you would have managed to have earned it; I think you should do that before you ask for it."—"How I would have earned it! why pray, good sir, do you know whom you talk to in this manner?"—"Whom I talk to!—I talk to the worshipful justice—whose betters I have talked to before now; and who would not have asked me that question some years ago, when he applied to me to instruct him in the business of his office!"—"Insolence!

instruct me! I'll make you know, sir, that I understand my business without your instruction! I'll take another clerk to-morrow."—"With all my heart, good master justice! with all my heart; and see who will be the loser by that. If you do not know it yet, you will soon see then, whether the business comes to the justice or his clerk; for I give you notice, that I shall take all the *people* with me; you shall have the credit of making up a new set for yourself, I assure you."—"Very fine! very fine treatment this!"—"Why do you deserve it then, sir, if you do not like it? I say very fine treatment too! that you should take upon you to undervalue my skill, and assume the credit of it to yourself; you, whom I first taught, and still support in your office, in despite of all your blunders!—As for the bank note, here it is, and here it shall be, till we have settled the account of the last sessions, when you were so clever upon me, sending me on a fool's errand, out of the way, while you took up the reward. Perhaps you thought I did not see through your design, or that I was afraid to speak of it, but you were quite mistaken; I only waited till the remedy should come into my own hands, and now it has; be assured I shall make use of it, whatever you may think, sir! and farther let me tell you, that if you say much more, I will think of parting in earnest, if you do not think proper to come to a new agreement: for I see no reason why you should carry off two thirds of the profit only because you are *Justice*, indeed, though I do all the business!"

CHAPTER XI.

MATTERS were now at such an height, that I every minute expected they would have proceeded from words to blows, when a pull at the bell brought them both to themselves in an instant.

"Ah! that is true! this is quarter night," said the justice, "and here the ladies are come! Give me your hand: why should we fall out about our skill, when the business goes on well? here's my service to you; and let there be no more of it."—"With all my heart," replied the clerk, "but why will you urge me on thus, when you know that I cannot bear to have my skill called in question?"—

By this time the ladies entered, whom I directly saw to be the *commede* matrons, and compliant fair, of his district, who came duly to compound with him, for the breach of those laws he was appointed to support.

The very mention of this scene sufficiently explains the nature of it, and makes a more particular description unnecessary. All parties behaved properly on the occasion. *They paid their subsidies*, for which he returned them very wholesome advice, to behave with diligence and discretion in their professions; and especially those who lived in his neighborhood, he cautioned to avoid all riots, and causes of offence, which might bring his connivance and protection into suspicion; then relaxing from the severity of his morals, he gave up the rest of the night, and a good part of the next morn, to mirth and good fellowship, in the company of a few of his particular favorites, and best customers of this motley set, having dismissed the rest to the pursuit of their occupations.

The business of the day, and pleasures of the night, had so far exhausted his spirits, that nature required a long pause: accordingly, no business coming in to disturb him (for such was his vigilance in his office, *and care for the public*, that every thing gave way to that) he made a late morning, not waking till he was called to attend a sermon and dinner, which were to be that day, for the benefit of a charity, to which he was a constant benefactor: as indeed his public spirit made him, to all that were already established, and prompt him to strike out many new; in which, as the author of them, he hoped to have the management, while novelty should make it the fashion to support them.

But in this he was always disappointed. For though, in the multitude of his schemes, he sometimes stumbled upon a good one, yet his head was so confused, and his motions so wild and immethodical, that before he could digest his plans into any regularity, some one else took up the hint, and ran away with the credit of the design.

At church he *edified* greatly, by a comfortable *nap*, during the sermon, which finished his refreshment, and sent him with a clear head, and keen stomach, to the feast, where every person seemed to vie, in demonstrating his attachment to the cause of their meeting, by the quantity he eat and drank.

I here changed my service once more, being given by his worship in the subscription, and so came into the possession of a community in general, which gave me an opportunity of seeing the human heart in a more complicated view, than perhaps any other scene of its actions could afford; as there was hardly a profession, degree, or rank of life, which had not a representative in this meeting, nor a motive of action, however apparently contrary to its design, or contradictory to each

other, which did not contribute its influence to the bringing them together.

While I lay in the hands of the treasurer of the charity, unassigned to any particular use, or person, I enjoyed a state of liberty, something like that of living in a commonwealth, having it in my power to enter into the hearts of all the governors, who were now my owners, as I liked, and to make any observations, without restraint, to any particular person, time, or place.

Charity is the most amiable and most exalted of the human virtues, and that which rises to the nearest imitation of the divine. Nor can any thing be a stronger proof of the beneficence of the author of human nature, than his placing this virtue, which is the perfection of it, within the reach of every individual.

For charity is a disposition to think well of, and do well to every other human being, without partiality, prejudice, or respect to any other motive, than this universal duty; giving of alms being no more than one, and that perhaps the very meanest effect of it.

But this extensiveness of the nature of charity is the reason of its being generally misconceived, and most erroneously confined to this effect, by minds unable to comprehend its greater excellence; and, from this mistake, have proceeded many of the extraordinary instances of this effect of charity, which distinguishes the present age.

This is a most dangerous error; it is too like thinking to bribe heaven with the wages of hell; and yet, profanely absurd as such a notion is, daily observation shews the extensive prevalence of it.

A charity is such a refined and exalted virtue, and purely spiritual, it must appear strange to you, how it should enter into the head of man, to make so gross, low, and sensual a passion, as eating the foundation of it! Indeed so unnatural is the thought to pure speculation, unacquainted with the perversions of life, that a charity feast, in the literal meaning of the phrase, must be taken for a meeting of the poor, to eat the provisions supplied for them by the rich, instead of the rich meeting to gorge their own appetites.

But a little observation of the present bias of the world will solve this difficulty. Of all the *natural* appetites and passions, which possess that part of mankind, whose age has enabled them to amass money enough to give away, eating is the most universal. I say *natural* passions, for fraud, avarice, or ambition, or even lust, at that time of life, are not the passions of nature.

To gratify this therefore, was the most probable scheme for drawing *them* together: and, when that is sufficiently done, the full heart opens easily, and shares its abundance with the empty.

CHAPTER XII.

"*They* had feasted, nor did their minds yet require such another banquet," when I became a member of their society. You must not expect a particular account or description of such a scene: a few general hints must satisfy your curiosity, as I have told you on other occasions.

Let your imagination represent to you a number of people, whose highest pleasure is eating, seated at a large table, covered with all the delicacies, all the rarities of the season, in a plenty that promised satiety to the keenest appetites. But I must stop: I see the very thought has an effect upon you, that savors too strongly of sensuality, and might, if not checked, put a stop to our conversation, by some human hankering.—Let us therefore pass over such a scene, and turn our observation to the company, as they sat, after the fragments of the feast were removed. And here it will be proper to have recourse to the expedient we made use of before, and, holding up the mirror to imagination, view the whole scene as if actually present.

Observe, then, that enormous bulk of flesh, that sits at the head of the table, with his waistcoat all unbuttoned, and gasping for breath; the distension of his stomach having left his lungs scarce room to perform the animal functions, and fat almost choked the passages of vital air.

He is one of the principal supporters of this, and every other public charity, founded on the modern method of a feast; the natural avarice of his heart outwitting itself in this instance; for as he is sure of satiating his appetites with more and better victuals and wine, at these meetings, than he could have at home, for much more than the price of the ticket, the advantage in that bargain always tempts him to go; and then the happiness of his heart, in the fulness of his stomach, opens his purse, and he subscribes with a liberality that arises almost to profusion.

But, look into his heart and read the rest of his life: the very money which he bestows with such an appearance of virtue, on this best of uses (for no error in motive or manner must take off the merit of an action that does good) this very

money, I say, has perhaps been acquired by vices the most opposite to the virtues it is applied to.

The greatest frugality, application, and skill in the mysterious business of a scrivener, have raised this person, from the most abject poverty, to affluence, above the moderation of a rational wish. But so powerful is the force of habit, that, though the cause has been long since removed, the effect still remains, and he persists to save and heap up money, by all the mean and iniquitous ways which want first suggested to him. One instance, and that not singular in him, will give you a sufficient insight into his character.

A gentleman, whom indiscretion and indolence of temper, had involved in some pecuniary distresses, had the greater misfortune, some years ago, to be recommended to this person, to borrow such a sum of money as should extricate him from his immediate difficulties, on a mortgage of his estate.

As his security was good, his business was soon done; but the convenience of his estate to another which this person had lately purchased in his neighborhood, and an acquaintance with the unwary easiness of his disposition, made him cast a wishful eye upon it, and form schemes for getting it absolutely into his possession.

At first he strove to tempt his indiscretion by the offer of more money to supply his pleasures; but finding that would not take, and that the sense of his former extravagance dwelt so strongly on him, as to give his mind a kind of turn to industry, did he know how to apply it, his ready genius struck out a method, that he imagined could not fail of success.

He therefore cultivated an intimacy with the gentleman, in which, upon all occasions, he affected to boast of his own success in life, and to attribute it to his having always a command of money, to take the advantage of any bargain that might offer.

As this turn of conversation seemed to flow only from the fulness of his heart, and to be free from all design, it had the effect he proposed, and raised a desire in his friend to follow a method which had been so successful with him. He therefore, one day, communicated to him a resolution which he had formed of selling his estate, and applying the money to business; and desired his friend's assistance to execute his design. After an appearance of surprise, the scrivener testified his pleasure and approbation of his prudence, by the readiness with which he undertook to serve him.

The ease with which the first part of his scheme had succeeded, made him form further hopes, and think of getting the estate he desired, even at cheaper rate than purchasing it.

After some time spent, as he said, in fruitless enquiries for a purchaser, he most artfully drew his friend, to desire that he would buy it himself: at first he seemed to hesitate, but then, as it were yielding to the impulse of his friendship, he concluded a bargain for it, on terms evidently advantageous to the seller.

All things being agreed upon, the parties met to conclude the affair, when, the writings being read over, and the money lying on the table while the scrivener told it, the gentleman executed the deeds of conveyance and receipt, before proper witnesses, who withdrew as soon as they had signed them.

In the mean time the scrivener continued to tell the money, till a servant entered hastily with a letter, as from a lord, who was one of his best clients, and desired to see him that moment. The difficulty this threw him into was soon solved, by his friends compliance to defer his business for a few hours; as the lord's urgency would not admit the least delay. Accordingly, he put up both the deeds and money in all the apparent confusion of hurry, and went away to his lordship.

Next morning the gentleman called to receive the price of his estate, but his friend was not at home, nor to be spoken with in the afternoon, for his turn was now served, and he neither desired, nor perhaps thought it safe, to keep up any farther acquaintance with him.

As such things might happen to a man in business, the gentleman took no notice of them, but quietly swallowed the same excuses for some days successively. At length his patience began to be exhausted, and his fears alarmed at a behaviour so strange, and contrary to that height of intimacy that had been between them, even were there no business in the case.—In this perplexity he went one morning, resolved not to quit the house till he should see him, and when a message to that purpose was, after a long attendance, complied with, upon a warm expostulation, he received for answer, from his friend, that “he had been of late too much engaged in affairs of consequence to attend compliments, and knew not any business he could have with him.”

“Not know my business, sir,” replied the gentleman in astonishment, “I come, sir, for my money, and shall hereafter never trouble you more with business, or compliment.”——“Your money, sir! I do not understand you: pray, sir, what money do you mean?”——“What money! the purchase money of my estate, sir; which you were to have paid me a week ago, when I signed the deeds of sale.”——“Poor gentleman, it is so! as I was informed, and always feared. He has lost his reason; and I should not seem much better, to trust myself longer

with a man in his condition!"——"Take care, sir, this is too tender a point to be trifled with: you almost make me mad!"——"Aye; there it is: he is mad, poor man, and is even sensible of it himself!"——"Death, sir, do not dare to dally with me a moment longer! answer me directly! pay me my money! and do not really provoke me to a madness that may be fatal to us both."——"Sir, your madness, or reason, is nothing to me: however, I will answer you directly, that I owe you no money, and none will I pay you. As for the purchase money of your estate, your parting with which I see has turned your brain, when you come to yourself, you will recollect that I paid it to you when I executed the deeds of sale; or if you do not remember it, your own receipt, properly witnessed, will prove it for me, and I desire no more; and therefore, sir, let me have no further trouble with you, if you do not chuse to take up your lodgings in Moorfields."

"This is too much: just heaven! this is too much: too much for human patience to endure! or wait the law's delay for remedy! I will avenge myself, assert the cause of justice, and rid the groaning world of such a monster!" exclaimed the unhappy gentleman, now really irritated into the extremity of that phrenzy which the other only wanted to impose upon him: and drawing his sword, before the wretch could call for help, or take any method of defence, he plunged it through his body.

His shrieks soon alarmed his servants, who rushing in, found him weltering in his blood, and the madman smiling, in the absence of frantic ecstasy, over him, and incapable of attention to any other circumstance, though some of them dragged him before a magistrate, while the rest were busied in procuring relief for their master.

The madman was committed to prison, to wait the event of the wound he had given, which heaven, to let the measure of the scrivener's iniquity be full, had directed to a part where it was not mortal.

In a word—he recovered, though not to a sense of justice or humanity, but persisting in his iniquity, which now was sharpened by a spirit of revenge, for what he had endured, the first effort of his health was to have the unhappy sufferer confined in Bedlam, where he still languishes under all the horrors that attend a total loss of reason, without relief, or even compassion from his base undoer; who, this very morning, as he was stepping into his chariot, to come to this *charity feast*, spurned from him with his foot, and refused the smallest alms to the wretched wife of the ruined madman, who begs in the common streets, and was driven by misery and despair, to throw herself even at his feet, to implore relief.

I see your abhorrence rise at such a monster, but how will wonder even heighten it, when I tell you that this oppressor has neither child nor kinsman to inherit his wealth; for he was himself a foundling, and reared at the public expense, without the knowledge or tenderness of a parent, to soften his rugged soul; nor would the selfishness of his heart ever permit him to marry, for fear of the expense of a family; but he is this moment meditating on some ostentatious scheme of charity, to the foundation of which, he designs to dedicate the wealth which he has amassed by such villainies.

CHAPTER XIII.

Move your eyes to the left, and view that demure looking picture of devotion, who sits there in silence, lifting up his eyes to heaven, and sighing in spirit, at the festivity and sensual conversation round him.

Who, that can see no deeper than outward appearances, would not think that man sincere in his professions of religion and virtue? whereas, in truth, he is a most abandoned contemner of both; and deepens the dye of his blackest crimes by the most hardened hypocrisy, secretly living on the practice of those very vices, of which he professes the greatest abhorrence.

With all that consequence, which he assumes in the direction of his charity on the merit of the largeness of his subscription to it, in reality, he is but the dispenser of other people's benefactions, into whose good opinion he so insinuates himself, by his pretended piety, that they intrust their charity to his disposal, who always pays himself for his trouble, by subducting largely from the sums confided to him. For, as real charity vaunteth not itself, they never divulge the secret, completely imposed on by his address, that never lets one half of his contributors know of the other; by which management, as the sums he gives are always made public, for example and imitation, each thinks that he adds most liberally to his own donation.—But this is not the only method by which he turns his piety to advantage. The access which the reputation of it gains him in almost every family, opens him an opportunity of carrying on the deepest intrigues, and becoming a pandar, for vices both natural and unnatural, which the interest of the parties concerned makes them still keep secret.—As for the former, the mystery of that trade has been in part explained already; and the latter is too horrible for explanation. I shall therefore pass over those scenes, and conclude my account of this extra-

ordinary personage, with one instance of his address, in finding out and managing the weak side of superstition and vice.

In the course of his love negotiations, he had made an acquaintance with a woman who kept a public *baggio*, or house of prostitution, which acquaintance mutual interest cemented into an intimacy. In this most infamous trade had this woman amassed considerable wealth, the disposal of which, after her death, took up much of her thoughts, in those moments, when the consequences of her debauched life forced her to think of dying.

As the secrets of their trade had removed every reserve from between them, she often used to consult him on this head; when he always comforted her with dissertations upon religion and virtue, *stripping them of the vain incumbrances of priestcraft, and bringing them back to their genuine principles of benevolence and charity.*

Frequent inculcation of this doctrine had the effect he designed: the matron was pleased with the thought of having all the benefit of religion, without the trouble of the practice; and immediately began to exercise her donations to public charities, which, as it was not quite so much in character for her to offer in person, while she continued her profession, and she saw no necessity, nor felt inclination to quit that, she always confided to the distribution of her spiritual guide.

Nor did his success stop here: he improved his influence on her superstition so far, that he prevailed on her to compound with heaven for the vices of her life, by bequeathing the earnings of them to its use, after her death:

For this purpose he himself drew her will, which pious application of her fortune, set her conscience at ease; and she continued her usual business to the hour of her death, which happened three years after, with such care and industry, that some instances of negligence, in one of her servant's administering to the pleasure of her guests, gave her such uneasiness in her last moments, that, with her dying breath, she lamented the ruin her house must come to, after she should quit the care of it, for the joys of heaven.

You must not think that his design extended no farther, than to prevail on her to make such a will; he had drawn it himself, as I have told you, and took care to word it in such a manner, as he thought should give him, under the appearance of her executor and trustee, as she designed him, a real property in her wealth; as it was immediately to come into his hands, on her death, and there was no time appointed for the fulfilling her pious intentions.

But here his sagacity disappointed itself: for neglecting to take proper advice, or afraid of making any person privy to his designs, he had committed such *material errors* in the *form* of the will, as gave room to learned council to set it aside, in favor of the heir at law, her nephew, who from cleaning shoes under a gateway, was enriched at least with a third part of his aunt's fortune, which remained to him, after the costs of the suit that had been carried on for him, *in forma pauperis*, while her executor had the vexation of disappointment aggravated by a decree *to pay all the cost*.—This was a severe stroke: but it did not break his spirit, though it obliged him to return to his former occupation of an *almoner*, which you see he pursues, with that attention which always insures success.

I see you sink under the pain of finding the best actions debased, by springing from such motives: but be careful to avoid an error, fatally too prevalent, of concluding from the abuse, against the use of any thing that may, in its end, be conducive to good.

These instances I have given; and I could add many more; not to depreciate the custom of giving to public charities, which is the noblest use of wealth; but to caution you against the dangerous error of thinking, that such giving alone, without reformation of life, and the active practice of the other virtues, can be acceptable in the sight of him to whom it be offered, or efficacious to procure his favor: and to shew the absurd impiety of persisting in vice, with a vain hope of bribing heaven with the wages of hell.

But to relieve your pain, behold that venerable person who sits opposite to him; the serenity of whose looks shews the happiness of his mind. Read his heart, and you will not find one discontent or sorrow there, but what humanity for the distresses of his fellow creatures, which his beneficence, his real charity, is forever finding methods to relieve, not only by pecuniary benefactions, though to these is devoted the far greater part of his ample fortune, but also by his advice, instruction, and good offices, the judicious application and sincerity of which makes them very rarely fail of success.—He is a real supporter of charity, in its most extensive sense! his example giving a sanction, a seal of virtue, to every thing he appears in, which puts wicked wit out of countenance, and stops the tongue of calumny; and is, even were it alone, sufficient to counterbalance all the instances which could be brought against it. His long life, which has been extended by heaven, as a blessing to mankind, has been a constant illustration of the religion he teaches; not one instance of his actions ever contradicting his

profession, as near as human weakness can act up to divine perfection.

Such is this clergyman! such should all clergymen be, to preserve the purity, the dignity of a function, whose rules are drawn from perfection, and calculated to prepare the human for a participation of the divine nature; to accomplish which greatest end, all profession, not enforced by practice, must be ineffectual.

To mention any one instance of his good works would be doing injustice to the rest, and contradicting the desire of his heart, which, next to doing good, is to conceal what he does, his actions being so far from ostentation, that to heaven only, and the parties themselves, are they revealed; nor to these even is the hand that reaches them the blessing always known.

CHAPTER XIV.

OPPOSITE to him, you see a man, whose rich dress and supercilious carriage give him the appearance of a superiority over all the rest of the company; but such artifices impose only upon the ignorant and vulgar; to a judicious eye they aggravate the defects they are meant to disguise; and the low bred avaricious wretch appears doubly contemptible, through the unnatural veil of pride and munificence.

There is something so whimsically singular in the story of this person, that I will gratify your curiosity with a short sketch of it.

He was born in the lowest class of the people, in a poor village, in one of the most remote parts of the kingdom; but the delicacy of his constitution making him unfit for a life of labor, the common lot of his condition, his poor parents denied themselves almost the necessaries of life to send him to school, to qualify him for some employment better suited to his natural imbecility. The master of the school, who was a person of discernment and good nature, soon perceived that the weakness of his body was amply made up by the abilities of his mind, and took a pleasure in giving instruction which he saw received with advantage. Nor did he stop here; but, when his pupil had made the ordinary progress of the school, he used the persuasive argument of teaching him for nothing, and even supplying him with books at his own expense, to prevail upon his parents to let him pursue his studies.

When he had advanced by this assistance, considerably beyond the usual boundaries of school education, being not only critically skilled in the learned languages, but also well ground-

ed in the principles of the liberal sciences, his kind master crowned the benefit he had conferred upon him, by recommending him warmly to a widow lady, of large fortune, to educate her only son, whom female fondness would not permit her to trust out of her sight at a public school.

In this employment he behaved himself with such circumspection and care, (for the weakness of his constitution saved him from all danger of excess, and the horrors of returning to his former poverty and distress, fixed his attention, invariably, to every possible means of advancing his fortune) that he won the confidence of his pupil's mother so far, that she ventured to send her darling son to the university in his care; and when he had finished his studies there, with credit, gave him a genteel stipend, to accompany him in his travels to the different courts of Europe, to complete an education so happily begun, and enable him to make a figure in life, suitable to the affluence of his fortune.

The unbounded confidence with which this trust was committed to him, gave him sufficient opportunities of gratifying the ruling passions of his heart, vanity and avarice, as it enabled him to secrete, to his own use, as much as he pleased of his pupil's fortune, satisfied that his accounts would never be examined, and to acquire, late as it was, the ornamental parts of education, which his original poverty, and the necessary gravity of his literary life and employment had precluded him from.

Accordingly, as soon as he arrived in Paris, the first place where he designed to make any delay, he suffered himself to be prevailed upon by his pupil, to remit something of the strictness of his authority, and, seemingly, winked at his plunging into all the levities and excesses of unguarded youth, that he might have the more convenient opportunity for executing his own schemes. Thus, while his abused charge threw away the time he ought to have spent in receiving profitable information and improvement, in idle expense and vicious pleasures, the prudent tutor took the advantage of his absence, to attend the masters he retained for him, and learn dancing, fencing, music, and all the other accomplishments of polite education; a conduct which he carefully observed, in all the different stages of their travels. But still his labor, as you see, was for the most part, in vain, the rust of his mean original being too strongly confirmed, to be worn off by so late application, so that his awkward affection only makes defects become more visible, which would otherwise have passed unnoticed, and exposes him to contempt and ridicule.

But, eager as he was in these favorite pursuits, he did not let them divert his attention from the main point, of continuing to cultivate the good opinion and confidence of his pupil's mother, to whom he constantly wrote in such a strain of piety, and gave such pleasing accounts of her son's conduct, expatiating on his good qualities, and palliating his failings, with the tender titles of youthful levity, and the frailty of nature, (for fear she should receive information of his excesses from any other person) that she thought herself happy in having placed him under a man of such virtue and goodness; her opinion of which was not a little heightened by the care he took of his parents, to whom he constantly remitted, through her hands, such a portion of his stipend, as enabled them to live with comfort; and with his former master he kept up a regular correspondence, informing him of every thing he saw in his travels, that he thought would be agreeable and entertaining to him, and expressing his gratitude for the friendship which had advanced him so happily in life.

When his pupil had finished his travels in this manner, they returned home, where the fond mother received them with the highest joy; her esteem for the tutor almost equalling her love for her son. But this natural affection did not long maintain the pre-eminence! Her established opinion of the understanding, learning, and virtue of the former, levelled the height from which difference of condition had made her look down upon him before, and she admitted him into all the intimacy of friendship. There is nothing more deceitful than connections of this kind between the different sexes. Let them be formed with whatever resolutions they will, at first, nature will insensibly take the alarm, and force the execution of her most powerful laws.

This intimacy had not been long cultivated, before the lady began to see perfections in her new friend, which she had never perceived before, and to feel a pleasure in his conversation which her heart had long been a stranger to. She knew not how it was, but nothing pleased her except what he said, or did: even her fondness for her son began to cool, and her eyes to open to faults in him, which she had always been blinded to before, though he had never taken any pains to conceal them from her. This did not escape the penetration of her friend a moment, nor was his judgment at a loss how to improve it to the best advantage. He immediately began to assume a timid tenderness in his looks and manner, and took every occasion of displaying the genteel accomplishments he had acquired in his travels, while her unhappy son, as if he had entered into the scheme against himself, seldom came near her, and when he

did, behaved with a careless indifference, scarce short of rudeness and insult.

Such a contrast was too striking to pass unnoticed: nor did her friend fail to aggravate the impressions of it, by doubling his assiduity and tender complaisance, whenever his former pupil withdrew, and lamenting the unhappy turn he had taken, in terms of the deepest concern, but without ever offering a word in his excuse.

This subtle conduct had the desired effect. The love of the mother was entirely diverted from her son to her friend; and, as the foolish fondness of her deceased husband had left much the greater part of his large fortune in her power, the improvement of this change was an object worthy of his highest attention. But still the difficulty upon both was, how to open the affair; for, powerful as the different motives that urged them to bring it to a conclusion were, a sense of the impropriety of such an action, made them equally at a loss how to mention it.

But here again the evil genius of the son prevailed, and he did that for them which they knew not how to do themselves. For some of his friends observing the intimacy between his mother and his former tutor, desired him to be upon his guard, and strive to prevent the consequences of it, by a change in his behaviour to her. Such prudent advice, if properly followed, might probably have had effect; but instead of that, he flew immediately to his mother, and indiscreetly charged her with a design of betraying the confidence of his father, and ruining him, to gratify a ridiculous passion for a mean, unworthy object; and then turning to him, who happened to be present, he told him fiercely, that, if he did not that instant quit his mother's house, he would treat him as the villainy of such a design deserved, in the next place he should ever meet him: and so flung out of the room in the highest rage, leaving them staring at each other, and almost petrified with astonishment.

But a few moments restored them to themselves! the affair was now revealed, and so the greatest difficulty over. "I wish," said the tutor, as if he spoke to his former pupil, though he took care to wait till he heard him out of the house, "I wish no other person beside me had reason to fear your resentment; or that I had no other obstacle but that, to prevent the happiness my heart languishes for."—And then turning to the lady, as if he did not know that she had heard what he had said, "I am most unhappy, madam," proceeded he, "to find myself the cause of your being treated in this manner, and shall immediately withdraw, to prevent a repetition of it; as for me, since I am to lose the happiness of your conversation, it matters not what becomes of me!"—Saying which, he made her

a most respectful bow, and with a look of the highest tenderness and grief, seemed to prepare to leave the room.

"Hold, sir," exclaimed the lady, the warmth of whose resentment at her son's behavior made her the more readily melt at the distress of her lover, "Hold, sir! what are you going to do? Will you desert me in this danger and distress?"—And then softening her voice and looks into the greatest tenderness, "I thought," continued she, "I should never want a protector while my friend lived."—"Nor shall you, madam," answered he with an appearance of warmth that banished all reserve. "My life shall protect you from every danger and affront.—But,—oh, that I had a tie to justify such an attachment to the world, which else will censure it severely."—And then, taking her hand, he bent his knee, and pressed it to his lips.

Such an act of gallantry was not to be resisted, in the condition she was then in! She bent forward to meet him, and, laying her head upon his bosom as he arose, "Let it be justified," she murmured in a broken, faltering accent, "by every sacred tie of love and truth; of honor and religion!"—This was all he wanted! He seized her in his arms, and, pressing her to his breast, sealed the contract on her trembling, withered lips.

The impatient love sick fair now thought every obstacle to her wishes removed, and therefore distantly proposed sending for a priest directly, to tie the sacred knot, and prevent any designs her undutiful son might form to disappoint her happiness. But her prudent lover was in no such haste! He now had her secure, beyond danger of retreating; but as her person was not the only object of his desires, he wisely judged it best to refrain, a few moments, from the possession of that, to secure the more solid enjoyment of her fortune; as he was not certain, but this fit of fondness might wear off, and her natural affection for her son return, when her untimely passion should be gratified. He, therefore, resolved to improve her present disposition beyond the danger of repentance, and sent for the priest directly, passing the intermediate movements, till his arrival, in the most passionate, endearing dalliance.

But, just as the blushing, bashful bride, was going to approach the altar, he stopped short, as if upon a sudden thought, and turning to her, "This, madam, secures our present happiness," said he, "but how are you to be revenged upon your base, ingrateful son? What certainty have I, that a return of your former fondness for him may not sacrifice me to his implacable resentment? Some settlement should first be made; and then anxiety and fear won't damp the ardor of our joys."—"I understand you not!" answered she in confusion and asto-

nishment, "What settlement can you mean? Do I not give you the possession of my fortune with myself?"—"True, madam," replied he, "you do! And could I be sure of having them for ever, I should be satisfied! But death may rob me of you, and then your fortune will descend to your ungracious son, while I am thrown upon the world, destitute of every means of self defence and support"—"And can you doubt my love?" added she, not a little surprized, and startled at his caution.—"I doubt it not! nor would I doubt it!" returned he, "and therefore will remove all room for doubt."—"What must I settle then?" said she, "How much of my fortune will remove your fears, and satisfy your wishes? Here! take this paper, and write down your terms!"—"That is soon done!" said he, and taking the paper, directly wrote the word, *ALL*, and reached it to her.—It is not easy to describe her astonishment and indignation, at the assurance and unreasonableness of such a demand. "What! *ALL*!" said she, with evident emotion: "Will no less do? Is nothing to be left to my disposal? This is too hard!"—The lover instantly perceived his ticklish situation! However, he was resolved to try the utmost; assured, that even if her resolution held, he was in no danger of losing her quite.—"Madam," said he, throwing his arms around her, and embracing her tenderly, "I give you myself, and all I have; and I expect the like return: I pretend not to compare the value of the gifts; but love is delicate, and will bear no abatement."—

If the passions of youth are impetuous, those of old age are silly! The ardor of this address, with shame of being refused upon any account, thus in the very crisis of her hopes, made her comply, and she betrayed the confidence of her husband, and signed away the inheritance of her child, to gratify a preposterous, untimely, ridiculous love.

The return she met with was just! Her new husband, now all his schemes were accomplished, scorned to preserve even the decency of appearance, but threw off the mask directly, and treated her with such indignity and contempt, that she broke from him, in despair, in the first week of her marriage, and threw herself upon the mercy of her basely ruined son; whose resentment was not proof to such a trial, but, yielding to filial piety, he shared, with her, the poor pittance which he happily had independent of her, till she sunk under the weight of misfortune, shame, and remorse.

Nor did her husband treat his first benefactor, or his parents, better. With the former he directly dropped all correspondence; and, giving the latter an allowance of twenty pounds a year, just to keep them from starving, he positively forbid their ever letting him hear from them more, on the penalty of forfeiting that, and every other instance of his favor.

Far from being satisfied with the success of his villany, or enjoying the fortune he had so basely obtained, his whole life has been spent, as you see, in anxious attempts to hide the meanness of his original, under the splendor of his appearance; and the iniquity by which he acquired his wealth, by vain ostentation of charity and munificence.

CHAPTER XV.

MOVE your eye towards the lower end of the table, and behold that person whose aspect and appearance command veneration and esteem. He was bred in a profession, the very name of which is become a reproach, from the abuse of unworthy professors. Nor can it be otherwise, while every low bred person, who is just able to give a son the first rudiments of education, and ambitious of seeing him in the character of a gentleman, is admitted to breed him an attorney; and as soon as he has served a time, as if to the most illiberal mechanic trade, to turn him loose upon the world, to live by the practice of the very crimes and iniquities which his profession was originally instituted to suppress, without any fortune to save him from the necessity of having recourse to such base means; and without being instructed in the principles of probity and virtue, to support him against the temptations of the many frauds and villanies which his business brings him to the knowledge of. Nay, so far from giving any attention to this indispensable duty, of forming the mind by proper instruction, such is the perverseness of man, that if a child betrays an early propensity to chicane and fraud, by setting his play fellows together by the ears, and cozening them of their toys, he is immediately marked for this profession, and, instead of being corrected for such a disposition, and having it nipped in the bud, is encouraged in it, by hearing it made the omen and ground of his future success in life, till it is confirmed beyond a sense of shame or remorse, and becomes the ruling principle of his life. The conduct, consequent to such education and principles, has brought the profession into so great disrepute, that scarce any person of character or fortune will breed a son to it; by which means the evil is daily aggravated more and more, and threatens to become absolutely irremediable at last. For, at present, so many are the opportunities that tempt to iniquity in the practice, and so universal the reproach affixed to the very name of an attorney, that all regard to reputation, that powerful preservative of virtue, seems to be in vain; and it requires an uncommon rectitude of heart to support the conflict:

but that there are some who are equal to this trial, and that the fault is not in the profession, but in the abuse of it, the person before us is an eminent instance.

A nobleman, who died some time since, without legitimate issue, thought proper to bequeath, not only his own great acquisitions, but also the immense possessions of his ancestors to a spurious son, without ever considering whether there might not possibly remain some distant branches of his family, capable of inheriting what they must have a just and legal title to, though the direct line of it failed in himself.—Accordingly the heir took possession of his adventitious fortune, and, as wealth hides every defect, entered into alliance, and made connections with persons of the most exalted rank, whose friendship and interest, supported by the immense riches he possessed, seemed to hold every enquiry into the justice of his title to them in defiance.

But a generous heart is not easily terrified in a just cause: the person before us, by his knowledge in his profession, and the uprightness of his practice, had acquired a fortune, and established a character, that placed him above the reach of slander, and the frown of power. He had been born under the patronage of this nobleman's house, and in the course of his business, had happened to get some insight into the settlements of his family, by which he found, that it was not in his power to alienate the acquisitions of his illustrious ancestors, and give them to a stranger to their blood, while any of their descendants were in being. Such an act of injustice, therefore, raised the indignation and pity of his honest, generous heart, and he resolved to set it aside, notwithstanding the trouble and expense that must necessarily attend such an attempt.

The greatest discouragement to his undertaking, was the difficulty of finding out and ascertaining the real heir; for the family was apparently extinct. But upon examining into the many alliances it had formerly made, which his known attachment gave him an easy opportunity of doing, he found, that, some generations before, a daughter had been married to a nobleman of a neighboring dependent kingdom; the issue of which marriage, if any remained, was the true and only representative of this noble house.

Having made this discovery, he went directly over to that kingdom, where, after a long and painful search, he had the mortification to find that the family was reduced, by revolutions of government, and the calamity of the times, to two poor, low bred, illiterate women, who had been married to mechanics of the meanest rank, and, being left widows, and without children, now strove to procure a wretched subsistence,

by joining their poor stocks to keep a chandler's shop, in a city, in the remotest part of the kingdom.

So melancholy an instance of the instability of human grandeur only raised his compassion, and confirmed his resolution to vindicate the blood of the illustrious patrons of his family, from such injustice and disgrace. Accordingly, he instantly relieved their immediate distresses, and, taking all the proper methods for ascertaining their descent, brought them over to this kingdom, lodged them in his own house, and treated them with the respect due to their noble blood and better hopes.

As soon as every thing was prepared for the great attempt, he regularly demanded a restitution of their right from the unjust possessor, and, upon his expected refusal, instituted a suit at law, for the recovery of it; in the prosecution of which, neither difficulties nor dangers, neither threats nor promises, could slacken his ardor, till he had obtained the justice he demanded for them. A detail of the proceedings, in such an affair, must be distressing to any humane heart. It is sufficient to say, that every method which the art of man could invent to impose upon judgment, and defeat justice, was exerted against him, for several years, in hope of exhausting his fortune, and wearing out the lives of his injured clients, (the elder of whom actually did die during the suit) and so disappointing his hopes. But justice at length prevailed, and he recovered for them the inheritance of their ancestors, leaving their antagonist only the immediate acquisitions of his reputed father, which, large as they are, he eagerly labors to increase, by every artifice of sordid avarice.

As for the heiress, the exalted gratitude she shewed, proved her noble blood. As soon as she had executed all the forms of law necessary to give her an absolute power over her fortune, and justly paid the expense, and rewarded the trouble of recovering it, as every branch of her family was extinct, she thought it but justice to settle her great fortune upon the generous recoverer of it. Nor was she content with leaving it to him, when she could no longer make use of it herself; but, obliging him to quit the business of his profession, she gave the greater part of it into his immediate possession, and, retiring to one of the principal seats upon her estate, spent the remainder of her life in happiness and esteem; the goodness of her heart, and the true nobleness of her soul, drowning her want of early education, in the superior radiance of innate virtue.

The absolute possession of her entire fortune, which her death gave him much sooner than he wished, has made no alteration in the conduct of this worthy person, who invariably

pursues the dictates of justice and benevolence in all his actions, making his wealth a blessing to all, whose wants and virtues marked them as objects worthy of his regard and assistance.

CHAPTER XVI.

IMMEDIATELY below him, you see one of those instances of inconsistency which diversify the motley character of man.— In the deep sunk lines of his face you may read learning and intense thought, as the placid serenity of his eye shews an heart warmed with piety and moral virtue. What pity, that a listless indolence of mind throws a shade over so bright a character, and, submission to the capricious yoke of female tyranny, makes him passively guilty of the very follies and vices most immediately opposite to his own virtue and good sense!

The pious care of a good father had so improved the eminent abilities with which nature had blessed this gentleman, by the most judicious education, that the promise of his youth gave hopes of his being an ornament and advantage to his age and country; but one indiscreet action overcast this pleasing prospect; and, in its consequences, has brought him to be the insignificant thing you see.

This was a marriage of mere inclination, with a person, who had neither fortune, beauty, nor merit, to justify his choice; and who yet has taken the unjustifiable advantage of this indolence of his temper, to usurp as absolute an authority over him, as if she possessed them all, in the most eminent degree, and conferred upon him the benefit and obligation she herself received.

This makes his life one scene of the most irreconcilable inconsistency, between the wisdom and virtue of the very few actions, in which he is admitted to follow the dictates of his own judgment, and the follies and vices, into which she wantonly leads him every moment of his life. When I say vices, I mean those of dissipation, luxury, and extravagance; which, though the most injurious to society, and productive of the worst consequences to particulars, are yet too often looked upon in another light, and thought harmless at least, if not even commendable exertions of greatness, and generosity of spirit, and the proper use of affluence of fortune; for, not content with the rational enjoyment of the fortune to which he raised her, from her proper sphere, she has assumed the absolute disposal of the whole, which she dissipates in every kind of fashionable folly and profusion, so as utterly to disable him from

exerting the natural generosity and benevolence of his heart, in the extent and manner suited to his apparent wealth, and, too often, from discharging the moral obligations of honesty, in the payment of his just and necessary debts.

Such an ungrateful abuse of obligation and influence may appear strange to you, who have been so little conversant in the ways of man; but, to a more extended view of life, constant observation shews, that conferring a great benefit actually extinguishes gratitude, instead of raising it higher, and that the meaner the hands into which power is entrusted, the more exorbitant and tyrannical the use they make of it. Whether this arises from a consciousness of inability to pay so great a debt, and a consequent desire to cancel it, by an absolute breach, that may, at the same time, also support the debtor's pride, and seem to hide the obligation, by an implied disavowal in the former case, and from a desire of returning the tyranny felt before, in the latter, would be a curious, and not unprofitable disquisition, but shall be reserved to another place, where the occasion will illustrate it more forcibly; and only the justice of the observation, as to the present case in particular, proved by a few, out of innumerable instances of the same kind.

Of all the methods of dissipating wealth, and precipitating ruin, the most speedy and effectual is gaming. The present prevalence of the passion for this vice (for to call it by any other name would be a false tenderness) among all ranks and sexes, has been already often observed, as it is the characteristic of the times. However, to soften the horror, with which the barefaced practice of it, by the fairer sex, must strike every rational mind, it is blended with matters of mere amusement, and represented only as an innocent method of relieving conversation, when a number of persons meet in public company, which must otherwise languish and grow tiresome, or else fall upon improper subjects. This ingenious expedient has given rise to those meetings at the houses of the greatest fashion, which, from the noise, bustle, and confusion, inseparable from such crowds, are emphatically called *routes*. In these, the mistress of the house always presides, and, consequently, attendance at them is looked upon as a compliment peculiar to her, and in which her husband has no share. For this reason, the greater the crowd collected, the more important the entertainer appears, and therefore no pains or expense is spared in inducing them to attend.

From the character already given of the wife of this gentleman, it may be concluded, that she exerted all her efforts, to make a figure by the frequency and greatness of her own routes,

and by the profusion with which she gamed away her money at those of others. However, the mode was become so universal, and so eagerly pursued, that she soon found it was impossible for her to distinguish herself in the manner she desired, if she could not strike out some new way; but in this she was not long at a loss, the boldness of her genius prompting her to try an expedient, which no one before her had dared to venture upon.

This was to fix her rout's upon the day set apart, by laws human and divine, for the duties of religion, and which, till then, had been held sacred to these alone, from every kind of business and recreation. So bold a stroke necessarily attracted the notice of the public; and the remissness of the legislature overlooking it, the crowds who, from an insensibility to those duties, were utterly at a loss to get rid of so much time, gladly embraced such an opportunity, and flocked to her in numbers, that amply supplied her ambition. Such success and impunity soon made her example imitated; but, as she had led the way, the merit of that secured her from being supplanted by any rival, and having her company decoyed from her.

The circumstance of her husband's birth, and the principles in which he had been educated, made him at first look upon such an insult upon religion, with the strongest horror: but she made light of his scruples, and overruled all his objections, with such an absolute authority, that, for peace sake, he was obliged to submit, and join in what he dared not contradict; till he has at length forfeited the acquaintance of every serious, rational, and religious person.

He was, at first, greatly affected at this falling off, and much distressed to think what it could proceed from, as he was not sensible of any deviation, in his own sentiments, from the principles which had made his acquaintance sought by every man of sense and virtue; but an accident soon opened his eyes to the absurdity of his situation.

The acquaintance, upon which he justly set the greatest value, was with a prelate of distinguished merit and virtue, an intimate friend of his deceased father. With him he spent the happiest hours of his life, and, in the wisdom and piety of his conversation, found relief for his sick heart, from the follies, and riotous excesses which he was a slave to at home: Though he always met with the most benevolent and friendly reception from this worthy person, yet the coolness with which he found himself treated by some others, made his apprehension so ready to take alarm, that, upon his grace's not returning a visit or two, with the exactest punctuality, either from sickness, or some necessary engagement, he could not help expressing his

uneasiness, with such warmth, when he went to see him next, that his grace, who, though he despised ceremony, would not give pain or offence to any person, especially one for whom he had so sincere an esteem, accounted for his late omission, by giving the real reason of it, and told him that he would do himself the pleasure of going to see him any day, when he might be sure of finding him at home.

The gentleman answered, that, if his grace would appoint any day agreeable and convenient to him, he should gladly break through all engagements, and attend to receive him. This was a strain of complaisance which the prelate would not agree to, but insisted upon knowing what day he was usually at home, when he would call upon him, in a friendly manner, without putting him to the trouble of waiting for him in particular.

The affectionate, sincere manner, in which this was said, was so pleasing to the gentleman, that it put him entirely off his guard; and he answered eagerly, and without ever considering that the next day was Sunday, when he was always at home. This was strictly true; he was always at home on that day, because it was his lady's day for seeing company, if he had in the least reflected on which, he would never have appointed his grace to come, as he was sensible, that he should forever forfeit his acquaintance by it.

Though that was a day which the prelate dedicated to employments of a very different nature from paying complimentary visits, there was something in the earnestness of the manner in which the gentleman appointed it, that made him apprehend he had some secret uneasiness upon his mind, which he wanted to communicate, for assistance, or advice, wherefore he complied without hesitation, nor did the other ever recollect the impropriety of what he had done, till it was too late to be remedied.

For his grace going the next evening, as he had promised, was not a little surprised to find a crowd of coaches before the door, for he had never heard of, nor suspected the scene, that was acting; but, however being informed that his friend was at home, he thought it best to proceed, and so lighting from his chariot, was shewn up, into a room, where there was a mixed multitude seriously engaged at cards.

The very mention of such a scene would have struck him with horror: judge then what his sentiments must be at the sight; and particularly to be betrayed to it, as he imagined, on purpose to insult him, by a man whom he esteemed, and whose father he had sincerely loved. As soon as he had recovered himself from his astonishment, he directly turned about, and

departed, just as he was perceived by the master of the house, whose confusion at his own indiscretion, in appointing such a time, which he instantly recollected, is not to be described. He started from his chair, and exclaiming, "Good God, what have I done?"—would have followed him directly, if his lady, with whom he was playing, and who was just then dealing, had not stopped him! and insisted on knowing what was the matter.

"Good God, madam," said he, in the utmost confusion and distress, "did you see his grace come to the door this moment? I was to pay him a visit yesterday, and unfortunately engaged him to return it this evening, without ever considering that it was your night."—"And is that all?" answered she, who had gone on with her deal, and just turned up an ace, "then pray sit still, and play your cards; you see clubs are trump! His grace may come at a proper time, if he pleases?"

Great as the husband's distress was, the accent with which these words were spoken, nailed him to the chair; so that he was forced to let his grace go home, and remain that night in an opinion so painful and injurious to him. But he laid not his head at rest, till he had written his grace a letter of apology for his mistake, which he candidly acknowledged, and conjured him to forgive, in the most earnest manner.

The imaginary insult, of being trepanned into such a scene, had at first provoked his grace beyond the usual evenness of his temper; but he had had time to cool before he received the letter (for he never lay down in anger, nor arose but in charity with all mankind) and, reading it dispassionately, was so moved at the situation into which he found his friend fallen, that all thoughts of personal resentment vanished, and he answered it with the greatest humanity and tenderness, drawing the folly and danger of such a complaisance in its proper strength, and urging his return to the practice of his own principles, with every argument of reason, virtue, and religion, promising to renew his acquaintance with the same, or greater intimacy than before, as soon as he should desist from such an impious profanation and abuse of a day made sacred to piety and devotion, by every civil and religious law; till he should do which, it was inconsistent with his character and principles to keep up any further intercourse with a person in such circumstances.

The justice of this reasoning was acknowledged by the person to whom it was addressed; and the loss, which followed the neglect of it, severely felt; but he wanted resolution to resume the authority that was necessary for putting it into execution, and so poorly submits against his better judgment, to all the impositions of a tyranny, which was first erected upon his folly, and still subsists by his indolence.

CHAPTER XVII

BUT, though such meetings as these are held in apparent defiance of the laws, you must not imagine that those who go to them are insensible of the impropriety, or unapprehensive of the danger of such a conduct. By danger, I mean the immediate one, from the secular power, for that of the divine wrath they never give themselves the trouble of thinking about.

Of this a remarkable instance happened at this place, not very long after the affair of his grace. A gentleman of humor, as well as reason, who was intimate in this gentleman's family, and has often strove in vain to convince his lady of the disagreeable consequences that might attend such an avowed disregard to decency, at least, resolved to take another method, and try what effect ridicule and shame might have, where every argument from reason had failed.

Accordingly, one night, in the midst of the riot, he contrived to have it whispered in the company, that a neighboring constable, remarkable for punishing every offence, for which he did not receive a proper composition, intended to come with the church wardens, and all the parish officers at his heels, and interrupt their diversion; and dressing himself exactly like the constable, whom he nearly resembled in size and figure, and buckling on a wooden leg, like him, in he stalks among them, just as the servant announced his coming, by the name of the constable, whom he personated.

It is impossible to describe the astonishment and confusion of the whole company at such an attack! Tho' there were several present, whose rank placed them above his authority, surprise and consciousness of their guilt so far deprived them of all resolution and presence of mind, that they joined in the just fear of the rest, and attempted to make an ignominious escape with them. The candles were all instantly put out, the windows were broke open, and stars and ribbons were seen among the crowd that leaped into the court, and ran through the streets, without regarding dirt or cold, while the more timorous sex stood petrified with fear, uncertain which to face, shame or danger.

In the mean time, the pretended constable took the advantage to slip off his wooden leg, tiewig, and long cloak, just as the servants had taken the alarm, and come in to see what was the matter, and so had an opportunity of enjoying the whole scene, without danger of being suspected for the author of it.

The first question which the lady of the house, whose active spirit first recovered itself, asked, was, what was become of the constable, and who let him in? At the mention of a constable, the servants all started, as not one of them knew any thing of him; and the very servant, who had announced his entrance, declared he had never heard a word of him, for, as he had not told his office, not one of them had the least notion of such a person's presuming to come among them. But upon telling his name, and describing his appearance, their surprise was changed the other way; they all remembered his entrance, but every one of them positively insisted that he had not gone back; so that the question now was, what could have possibly become of him? as his leaping out of the window, as the others had gallantly done, was neither necessary, nor indeed possible for him to do, maimed as he was.

While they were forming sagacious conjectures, on so strange and unaccountable an affair, the metamorphosed constable who had joined in the conversation, said to an old lady, who seemed more strongly affected than any other of the company, that the oddness of this affair put him in mind of one, not very unlike it in many circumstances, which he had read, in accounts of good authority, to have happened in France, during the minority of Lewis XIV.

This raised the curiosity of all who heard him, who immediately crowded round him, and desired him to tell it. At first he seemed rather unwilling, and very gravely prefaced his story with declaring, that for his part he believed nothing of the matter, tho' he owned it was related by writers of undoubted veracity, and attested in a manner almost beyond any fact he had ever read in history. Having thus prepared them, for something extraordinary, he proceeded thus, "You know, madam," addressing himself to the old lady, to whom he had first mentioned it, and who, he knew, plumed herself not a little, upon her knowledge in secret history, every thing that bore the name of which she had read, and implicitly believed every word of, "that in the minority of Lewis the Great, Mazarine, who governed the kingdom, took every method of diverting the attention of the young monarch from state affairs, by all kinds of pleasurable entertainment that could be devised."—"True, sir," answered the old lady, who could not possibly restrain her desire of shewing her knowledge—"and that is said to have influenced the conduct of his future life, in that expensive pomp and vain magnificence, which attracted the admiration of foreigners, while it exhausted and ruined his subjects. Hem! hem! but I beg pardon sir! pray don't let me interrupt you."—

"As this Mazarine was an Italian, you know, madam," continued he, to which she assented with a nod, as she constantly did, "it was natural for him to have a fondness for the entertainments of his own country: he therefore introduced the Italian opera into France. The first time it was presented, one of the principal parts of the entertainment consisted of a comic dance that was performed by six of the nimblest caperers, in all Italy. At first they went on expertly, and with great applause; but immediately found themselves at a loss, and were unable to proceed any farther, being put out by an intrusion of a strange dancer, who came among them, nobody could tell how, and disconcerted the entire scheme of their dance, which had been calculated only for their own number. This at length threw them into such confusion, that they were obliged to stand still; when the manager of the entertainment coming to them, to see what was the matter, perceived the cause of their confusion, and obliged them all to unmask," for they were dressed exactly alike, and wore masks, "that he might detect and seize the impertinent intruder, when, to his and to the utter astonishment of every one present, he vanished as unaccountably as he had come, though the eyes of the whole house were upon him, and there appeared to be no more than the original number, and the same persons, who began the dance. I believe, madam, you may recollect the other circumstances of the story, which I do not chuse to mention, on this occasion; they are told in the secret memoirs of cardinal Mazarine."—"I do, sir," returned she with great emotion, "remember something of it. But really"—"Dear madam," interrupted another, whose curiosity was raised too high to bear a moment's delay, "pray let the gentleman proceed! When he has ended, if he omits any thing, you may then inform us farther. Pray, sir, do proceed."—

"Why really, madam," continued he, under some apparent confusion, "I am at a loss how to act, and had much rather be excused; however I must beg leave to observe, that for my own part, I do not believe a single syllable of the stories of ghosts, and apparitions, and devils, and such like stuff, that ever were told, though this story in particular is told in a manner, and confirmed with circumstances, not easily to be contradicted."—

This solemn preface raised the curiosity of them all to a torture, and alarmed apprehensions, that would not admit of a moment's suspense. "Dear sir, pray proceed"—echoed from an hundred mouths at once, as they pressed closer to him. The gentleman bowed and continued: "The whole company was now thrown into a confusion, as great as that of the dancers: they had all reckoned a seventh person, and the connoisseurs, in particular had observed that one of them had shewn greater agility, and cus

higher, than any one they had ever seen before, and indeed than they thought it possible for any human person to do. This hint alarmed the whole house, and it was immediately concluded that the devil had maliciously joined in the dance, on purpose to spoil their sport; an opinion, which one or two unlucky circumstances seemed to give weight to, which were, that all the dancers had been dressed like devils, the opera being *The Fall of Man*, and the dance exhibited, as a triumph of the devils, upon the occasion, and that it was acted on a Sunday evening. Trifling as these circumstances really were, they threw the whole audience into a consternation. Some directly fancied the candles burnt blue; others that the place smelt strongly of sulphur; and one more impudently foolish than all the rest, insisted that he had observed the cloven foot. But what is most surprising of all was, that the cardinal, who could not be suspected of superstition, was so affected by it, that he ordered the house to be dismissed directly, and that opera never to be performed again, nor any other on a Sunday, which was observed during his life, and some time after."—

It is impossible for words to describe the situation of the company, at the conclusion of this story. At the mention of the candles burning blue, all turned their eyes about, and fancied the same; as to their smelling sulphur, it was more than imagination; the pretended constable having taken an opportunity, while they were all in confusion, to throw, unperceived, a composition which he had brought with him on purpose, into the fire, which had filled the room with a most sulphureous smell; and more than one of the company declared, they thought they saw a cloven foot, or something very like it, fly out of the window.

The scene was now changed to an appearance really frightful. Every lengthened visage was as pale as death; every haggard eye staring in wild affright. The old lady, to whom the tale had been particularly addressed, confirmed every syllable of it, and added many circumstances from secret histories, of her own immediate invention: and every one present had some similar story to tell in support of it, till they at length terrified one another, to that degree, that they were afraid to look around, or even raise their voices to bid their servants prepare for their departure.

The gentleman pleased at the success of his artifice, resolved to improve it to the utmost, and take advantage of their present situation, to work them up to some action, that should make them ashamed, at least ever to be guilty of the like profanation of that sacred day again: "Defend us, heaven!" exclaimed he, fixing his eyes with horror, on one of the windows, "what can that be?" This completed the terror: they all believed the devil was returning to destroy them, for the boldest of them all

had not the spirit to turn her eyes, to see what he looked at, and joined most devoutly, in his ejaculation to heaven for defence.

He saw this was the proper moment for what he intended, and so dropping suddenly upon his knees, in which they all followed his example, he repeated aloud the confession in the service of the church, adding, with particular emphasis, to the sins of commission, this of breaking the sabbath, and to those of omission, the neglect of the duties of religion, to which it was devoted; and concluded with a solemn vow, never to be guilty of either again, if heaven would remit its wrath, and spare them for the present.

All the while he had been performing this ceremony, he had kept his eyes fixed upon the window, and, at the end of it, exclaimed in a rapture, "Our vows are heard! it vanishes! the danger's over!"—Upon which he arose, as did they all, and fell into a most serious and devout conversation, upon so signal an instance of divine favor and mercy, while their coaches and chairs, were getting ready to carry them home, when they retired with thoughts very different from those which they usually brought from such places.

Though every lady in the company had been frightened into a fit of devotion, by what had happened, none suffered so severely by it as the lady of the house, who, notwithstanding the public contempt she shewed for religion, was so fearful of ghosts, and hobgoblins, that after having persuaded her husband to lay out a large sum of money, much more than prudence would have permitted, in repairing and fitting up, in the modern taste, a beautiful antique castle that was upon his estate, upon hearing that a particular apartment in it was haunted by a spirit, quitted it directly, and never could be prevailed upon to sleep a second night in it. As soon, therefore, as the company was all gone, and she left to her own meditations, her fears recurred so fast upon her, that she fell into fits, which seemed to threaten her with the total loss of her reason, raving of devils and damnation; and railing against cards, and sabbath breaking, with all the vehemence of a modern enthusiast, among his mad brethren in Moorfields. But this did not last long! the gentleman, to avoid detection, had been obliged to leave his tiewig, cloak, and wooden leg behind him. These, which were found upon clearing out the apartments, unravelled the whole mystery of the affair, and shewed that it had been all a trick; nor was the lady long at a loss for the author of it; for the first mention of the discovery had put an end to her fits of fear and devotion, the pains he had often taken to persuade her against these meetings, on this particular day, and the zeal he shewed in the late affair, convinced

her it was all transacted by him. This threw her into the most violent rage against him; but as it was impossible to prove, and he denied the fact when charged with it, she could have no other satisfaction of him, than that of disappointing his design, by returning to her former practice with double eagerness, and aggravating the scandal of it by every act of irreligion and prophaneness that she could devise, in which hopeful course she still persists.

As for the male part of the company, who had so manfully leaped out of the windows, and made their escape through the cold and dirt of the night, some of them caught colds, that cost them their noses; and one or two lost their lives in duels, which they fought in vindication of their characters, from so scandalous an aspersion, for it was thought proper to deny the whole story.

CHAPTER XVIII.

NOW is she content with offering this flagrant insult to religion and law: the tenderest feelings of nature are also wantonly made the objects of her grossest ridicule; in the absurdity of which to shew her matrimonial power in its utmost plenitude, she obliges her passive mate to bear his foolish part, and sacrifice common sense, as he had before done conscience, to her capricious tyranny.

As she has no children, upon whom she can display maternal care and love, she affects holding the important and inexpressible tenderness and duty of these in the lowest contempt; and, to shew this, in the most glaring colors, prostitutes them upon some insignificant animal, in all the solemn pomp and parade of ceremony, usual on such occasions, to make the ridicule more striking.

The present worthy object of her affection is an owl, which she caresses and treats with all the endearments of a darling child; calling it the finest names, talking to it for hours together, every Sunday morning, and entertaining her most intimate acquaintances with a peculiar detail of its engaging qualities and sensible actions; nor does her humour stop here, she dresses her favourite in all the fantastic extravagance of the mode, makes a complimentary enquiry after its health, part of the ceremonial of her acquaintance, and celebrates the anniversary of its birth, with the expensive magnificence of a public entertainment, when the dear creature is produced, with all the ceremony and state

of a royal babe, to receive the praise and caresses of the company; and to finish the farce, her husband is obliged to act his part, and join with her in receiving the congratulations paid upon the happy occasion.

Perhaps you will imagine that such an unaccountable caprice is meant to expose the sevrility of complaisance, and shew to what an height it is capable of being strained, to gratify the humours of the rich. Such a conclusion is not unnatural, nor the general satire implied in it, unjust; but here, in respect to her, it does not hold, for she has no such aim in view, nor thinks of any thing beyond the immediate gratification of her own whim: on the contrary, she would be as ready to pay the same compliment to any of her acquaintance, if they required it. Indeed the share she makes her husband take in the ceremony, bears a different construction, and is plainly seen to be designed as a most severe and insolent ridicule upon him, as it is no secret, that she imputes her want of children to his fault; a charge, which his blind submission to her will, makes not improbable.

But this is not the first instance of the extravagance of her humor, nor he the only one who has been made the object of public ridicule by it; though he has never missed of his share.

Before her present favourite, a cat engrossed her fondness in as eminent a degree, but unhappily lost that and her life together, by a slip of female frailty; for slighting the example of her mistress's chastity, she had taken an opportunity to carry on an intrigue with a cat in the neighbourhood, whom she used to meet in the evenings upon the leads of the house, while her mistress was abroad, and her own attendants engaged in parties of pleasure below stairs.

This unfortunately broke through all her mistress's great designs, who was just then in treaty for a marriage between her and the male favourite of a lady of quality in Paris, the preliminaries of which were all settled, and nothing remaining, but to determine where the wedding should be celebrated; she, for the honor of the sex, demanding that the gallant should wait upon his mistress, and the other insisting upon the example of all royal marriages, where the bride goes to the bridegroom; a reason so just, that the heroine of our tale disputed it only for form sake, and was preparing to set out for Paris, with her husband and a grand retinue, to solemnize the wedding, as soon as the proxy, which had been proposed to be sent by the other party, should arrive.

Upon the first discovery of it, therefore, by apparent symptoms of the frail one's pregnancy, the whole house was in an uproar, every servant was turned off, and a council of her most in-

timate friends directly summoned, to consider what was to be done in such an emergency, and how the treaty of marriage could be broke off, without giving offence to the other parties, or exposing her own disgrace. After much and mature deliberation, it was resolved to send an express immediately to Paris, to prevent the proxy's setting out, and to apologize for breaking off the marriage, on account of a pre-contract, into which madam *Grimalkin* had inconsiderately entered, without any knowledge of her mistress; and, to make this embassy the more respected and effectual, the person thought most proper to be sent upon it, was her husband, who accordingly was obliged to set out on his journey directly, but was rescued from the ridicule of it, by a fit of the gout; which arrested him at his first stage; so that he was forced to transfer the honor of the employment to his gentleman, who acquitted himself of it with great reputation.

But this was not the only distress in which this unfortunate misbehaviour of the favourite involved her mistress. In the first transports of her rage, she had ordered her to be taken out of her presence, and publicly vowed that she would never see her more: but, when her resentment cooled a little, her former fondness returned, and she could not bear the thought of abandoning her, for the first fault, to the low life of a common cat, or depriving herself of the pleasure she enjoyed in her company. But the difficulty was how to receive her again into favor, consistently with the purity of her own character, and without seeming, in some measure, to countenance the inconsistency she had been guilty of, by such lenity. While she was in this perplexity between delicacy and love, her instructor in the important science of gaming most luckily happened to pay her a morning visit, to give her a lecture, and inform her of some new discoveries he had made in his mysterious art. As she knew that he was a nice casuist, the moment he approached her toilet, she informed him of the whole affair, and desired his advice.

After taking some time to deliberate upon the case, "madam," said the sage, shaking his hoary head, and extending the fore finger of his right hand, "this is a very difficult point to decide: however, I have calculated the chances on each side, and have found that the odds are as seven, one fourth, and two fifteenths, to five, nearly; for it would be too great a trouble for you to examine the proof of it in more minute fractions, in favour of your receiving the offender into your good graces again, which I prove thus: All the ladies in the world are liable to some failing or other; now as from weakness of constitution, derived from the goodness of their families, or brought on by their own intense application to the pleasures of polite life, there are not above five who are guilty of this particular foible, I mean among people of

fashion, such as you converse with, to eight who are not, it is evident that there will be almost eight who will not condemn your conduct, for five who will; it being the general maxim, always to exclaim against the faults of which we are guilty ourselves, to deceive the generality of the world, and make an appearance of our being innocent of them. If this reasoning does not appear plain, I will draw it out at length, and adapt the calculations to the general rules of *Whist*, so that they may be proved by the cards, as the method most familiar to you, to satisfy your own scruples, and answer the objections of your friends, for ladies cannot be too circumspect in affairs of this kind, where so deep a stake is played for. The scheme will not take up much time to draw; nor be attended with much expense, not above twenty pieces, or some such trifle; for you know I never am in the least unreasonable with my friends.——

This judicious solution was so agreeable to her, that she saw the justice of it directly, and embraced it without a moment's delay, ordering the poor delinquent to be immediately brought to her, and, after a little gentle chiding, almost killing it with her caresses. As to the sage casuist, she thanked him for his decision, and, having received his lecture, desired him to reduce his arguments into the form he proposed, as soon as he pleased, as she never had any objection to his demands, and then dispatched cards immediately to all her acquaintances, to inform them of the reconciliation, and invite them to an entertainment which she gave upon the happy occasion.

Accordingly, they all attended, and poured out their compliments in the most polite profusion; but, in the height of their joy, an unfortunate accident happened, that changed their congratulation into condolence.

As the dear creature was handed about, to receive the caresses of the company, an elderly gentlewoman, to shew her extreme fondness for it, by keeping it as long as she could upon her bosom, would needs carry it herself to a lady of quality, who sat on the other side of the room, and desired to have it brought to her; but, striving to be more alert than her paralytic tottering would permit, she fell at her length upon the floor, and almost crushed the poor animal to death.

You may conceive what a confusion this threw the whole company into: the cat screamed, the old lady roared, and the voice of all present echoed a general exclamation: and, to heighten the distress, they all got up at once, and, rushing together, to raise the fallen pair, hindered each other so, that they lay struggling in no very agreeable situation, or decent posture, on the floor; for the cat, enraged at the injury she

had received, exerted all her strength for revenge, and fixed her claws in the face and neck of her supposed enemy, growling with the most envenomed spite, which made the innocent author of her disaster, roar, kick, and sprawl, with all her might, as she was unable to disengage herself from the claws of her furious adversary, or even rise from the ground where she lay.

At length, some of the company made a shift to raise and part the combatants; when the poor gentlewoman was hurried to her chair, with her face and neck all in a stream of blood, the attention of the company being entirely taken up with the fright of the lady of the house for the danger of her favorite.

The spirit and strength, which she had shewed in revenging of the injury she had received, was some consolation to her mistress, as it seemed to shew that she could not have been very much hurted; but one of the company happening to mention her condition, renewed her fright, and made her resolve instantly to send for one of the most eminent male practitioners of the *obstetric* art, to enquire into the circumstances of her case, and administer any assistance that might be necessary upon the unhappy occasion.

Accordingly a servant was instantly dispatched, in the mistress's name, to the doctor, who attended without a moment's delay, imagining, from the urgency of the message, that some lady of distinction might be taken ill in her house, as he knew the lady herself could have no occasion for him, and the footman could give him no farther information, than that some accident had happened in the company, of which there was the usual croud. As soon as he arrived, he was shewn directly into the drawing room, whither the lady, with a few select friends had retired, where one of them leading him up to her, and lifting up an handkerchief, that covered the poor dear creature in her lap, opened the case to him, for the mistress's grief was so great, that she was not able to speak.

It is impossible to describe the rage into which this threw the doctor: he looked upon it as an insult, not to be forgiven; and, as he could not wreak his resentment upon ladies, by any act of violence upon their persons, resolved to shew it, by his treatment of the creature, for which they implored his assistance. Accordingly he stooped very gravely, and taking it out of the mistress's lap, laid it on the ground, and setting his heel upon its head, crushed it to death, before any one had time to interpose in its behalf; then turning to the lady, whose astonishment was so great, that she had not power to speak "There, madam!" said he, "your favorite is delivered from all danger of abortion; but take care how you provoke another,

time the resentment of a man, whom no body provokes with impunity."—Saying this, he turned about and marched away, leaving the whole company, and particularly the mistress of the innocent victim of his vengeance, in a condition not to be expressed: she wept, beat her breast, stamped with her feet upon the floor, and vowed the bitterest vengeance; nor is it easy to say, how far her passion might have transported her, had not a gentleman entered the room that very moment with a young owl in his hand, which he had taken out of the nest that morning.

The sovereign remedy for a woman's grief, for the loss of any favorite, whether a cat, a sparrow, or an husband, is a new one. The sight of the owl instantly struck her: it had such a gravity and wisdom in its looks, that she resolved to make it the confidant of all her secrets, and the only counsellor from whom she would take advice that should contradict her inclinations. Accordingly, poor *Grimalkin* was ordered to be taken away, and the new favorite received in her place. This restored the general harmony and good humor; and the entertainment that was designed to celebrate Mrs. Puss's restoration to her mistress's bosom, served for the reception of the stranger. However, though a new favorite consoled the mistress for the loss of the former, she did not neglect to pay proper respect to its remains: the body was carefully laid up till next morning, when an eminent undertaker was sent for, and orders given for her decent interment.

CHAPTER XIX.

TURN your eye now to the other side, and observe that superannuated figure of foppery, at the upper end of the table, who plumes himself like a peacock upon the gaudiness of his dress, and gives his contribution with an ostentation and affected dignity that would disgrace a prince. He is another instance of the happy fruits of woman's government. With all the importance he assumes here, in his own house he is a perfect cypher, of no consequence in himself, but as he adds to that of his wife.

So insignificant a character may be thought incapable of affording either instruction or improvement, sufficient to reward the trouble of displaying it; but then it introduces another, to which it serves as a shade to shew the glaring colors of it in a proper light, and illustrate the vanity, as the former did the vice of female caprice and ambition.

He had the solid advantage of entering into life with a very affluent fortune; but instead of making it a means of happiness to himself, and a benefit to society, by a rational and benevolent use; to gratify the most absurd avarice, he gave up every enjoyment of it, by marrying an heiress, the known vanity, imperiousness, and extravagancy of whose temper so far overbalanced the greatness of her wealth, that no man of reason and spirit, who had any other possible way of earning a morsel of bread, would have linked his fate to her.

The consequence was just what he deserved. The moment he became her husband, she assumed the most absolute authority over him, and all he possessed, as if the words of their connection had been inverted, and he had made the covenant of duty and obedience to her, and instantly set up for the patroness of merit in the fine arts and sciences, to shew her superiority of genius over the rest of her sex.

Such an ambition directly marked her out for a bubble to all the needy sharpening adventurers, who, under the pretence of such merit, fly like locusts to this fantastic people, from every part of the globe, in swarms, that literally devour the fruits of the land in such a manner as to starve the natives who are engaged in the same pursuits, and thereby discourage and prevent their rising to that excellence, the want of which is objected to them.

For though there may not perhaps be any natural difference between the sexes in the abilities of mind, necessary to form a proper judgment of any science, yet the female labors under such disadvantages from a wrong education, that it is next to impossible for a woman to exert the faculties of reason in any distinguished degree; the time when the seeds of knowledge should be sown being devoted to trifle or absurdities that deserve a worse name, which by these means take such possession of the mind, as to influence the conduct of the whole life. Some rare instances indeed there are, of women, who break through this oppression, and rise above the prejudices of such an education, to a degree of eminence equal to the foremost of the other sex; but this requires such an uncommon strength of genius, as is indulged to very few; and was by no means the lot of this person: All her pretensions to taste and judgment being founded on her ability to reward them liberally in others. But even in this, her injudicious vanity has always marred the good effects of her generosity and wealth; for, not being able herself to discern real merit, and disdaining to follow the opinions of others, for fear of passing unnoticed among the crowd, she blundered upon the most unlucky method of distinguishing herself that ever entered into an human head; for, as if

her opinion was of more weight than that of all the world beside, she sets up to contradict the voice of the public, and always patronizes those whom they reject and decry.

Such a conduct, as I said, naturally lays her open to the impositions of flattery and fraud. Though she professes a taste for all the finer arts, music is the particular object of her favor and encouragement. As soon as a new performer arrives, if he is in distress, as is almost always the case, he immediately waits upon this lady, to implore her patronage; this necessarily introduces a display of his abilities, which she never fails to reward munificently, and profess her approbation of, but cautiously, and in general terms only, that she may retract it afterwards, should the public unluckily join with her, for her opinion is always in the opposite scale to that of the rest of the world. But if he is disapproved, she takes him under her immediate protection; she invites him constantly to her table, she supplies him with money, with the most boundless profusion, and makes parties among that crowd of company, which her wealth and turn for expensive pleasure constantly collect about her, to support him against the favourites of the public: and to shew, that she does this merely from a spirit of contradiction, should the most eminent of these fall off, or be eclipsed by the superior merit of a rival, she instantly forgets the animosities with which she pursued his success, and receives him into her protection and patronage, admiring his grossest faults, and praising the very defects, she decied before; while her gentle mate is obliged to submit to this dissipation of his darling wealth, and to be the humble echo of her opinions, in all their various changes, without daring to interpose a word in vindication of his own judgment or authority; but thinking himself happy in being permitted to make use of the pittance of his fortune, which he thus contributes to public charities, to give him the opportunities of assuming the momentary consequence you see.

The many impositions which she has suffered from these rapacious sycophants, would be sufficient to make any person see the folly of such a conduct, who had not wilfully resolved against conviction. I shall just mention one instance, for the grossness and singularity of it, and so conclude the disagreeable representation.

To shew her elegant taste in this most pleasing entertainment, and raise an opinion of her importance in the polite world, among her tenants and neighbors in the country, whither she retires for the summer, she always takes with her some of her favorite performers, who cannot fail to please persons who never had an opportunity of hearing any better; and sometimes even will condescend, upon every particular occasions, as when

she gives public entertainments, to comply so far with the taste of others, as to send for some of those who are the highest in general repute; though her country seat is almost at the extremity of the kingdom; which makes the expense of such a compliment very considerable; for she defrays all the charge of travelling, besides giving a very genteel gratification for the trouble.

Upon an occasion of this kind, some little time since, she sent for a musician of note, to conduct a concert, which she designed to give her neighbors; in the highest taste. The man, finding he had nothing to pay, an unlimited credit being established for him at every stage upon the road, travelled down in the highest luxury to her house, where his performance was also rewarded with a very handsome present. But, whether he thought it unequal to his merit and trouble, or imagining that he should never be sent for thither again, resolved to make the most of the present opportunity; upon his return he took up money at every inn he stopped at on the road, upon the credit given him; and, where he lay, constantly prevailed upon one of the compliant females, who attended to sleep with him, for a considerable gratification, which he also ordered to be charged to his bill, and left for this lady to pay.

Such an insult might be thought to merit her resentment, but as the punishing of it would open scenes, which must lay her under a necessity of discontinuing her favorite practice of sending for such persons, and expose her extravagance and taste to public ridicule and censure, she thought proper to overlook it as unnoticed, and pay the bills, without seeming to examine into the particulars of them; and to prevent the story's receiving credit, should it happen to be made known, continued to countenance the man, and even invited him into the country with her, the next summer, when he played her many tricks of the same kind, finding he escaped so easy after this.

I have dwelt so long upon the characters of this and the former lady, to save myself trouble upon other occasions, as their actions afford a general representation of female life.—I mean the lives of those females, who, looking upon themselves as raised above the rest of their sex, by rank or fortune, think it necessary to shew their superiority, by breaking through all the rules which reason and religion have established for their conduct.

How prevailing the force of such examples is, the instances just given sufficiently shew. Indeed, such is the implicit adoration paid to wealth, such the reigning passion, for joining in what is called good company, and partaking of their luxurious

entertainments, that, let the rich and great propose any folly and vice, however gross and absurd, as the means of introduction to their tables and parties of pleasure, they will be sure of finding persons enough to comply with their humors. These instances are taken from the most licentious caprices, and absurd vanity of this ambition. The former admit of no excuse; and though the latter may be less blameable in themselves, and even bear a kind of resemblance to virtues in many cases, the success is not much better, nor ever sufficient to justify this ambition in females, to quit the subordinate sphere allotted them by nature, and strive to make a figure in the busier and more extensive province of man.

Nor is this the only useful instruction that may be drawn from a display of these characters. It shews also the ridiculous and unhappy situation into which man falls, when he poorly gives up the reins put into his hand by Providence, and submits to the government of a woman, whom he was born to command.

CHAPTER XX.

~~TAKE~~ notice of the person immediately below him, whom I have just now given you an account of. By his large Athetic make, nature designed him for some of the most laborious employments in life; but his genius led him to other pursuits, and made him depend upon the sharpness of his mind, rather than the strength of his body, for his support and advancement in the world.

The depravity of man makes many employments necessary in a community, for public safety and advantage, the execution of which is attended with so many circumstances of horror in the punishment of unhappy delinquents, that no man, who is not destitute of that sympathetic tenderness which is the highest honour of his nature, can bear to undertake them. This throws them upon persons, speculatively speaking, the most unfit for such offices; whose poverty obliges them to practice every iniquity of the profession, into which they were first initiated by vice, and whose hearts are hardened by habit, against every sentiment of virtue and honor, every finer feeling of nature. Thus the hangman, whose crimes first reduced him to take up the horrid trade, continues it from distress, and puts to death wretched offenders, for facts which he is hourly guilty of himself, without compassion or remorse, till he is detected, and suffers

the same punishment from another hand. But this is one of those defects of human policy, which no human art can remedy.

In an employment not very dissimilar in its nature, though dignified by a less opprobrious name, has this person displayed his abilities for many years, to the astonishment of all who have been witnesses of his exploits. There is a mystery in such scenes too horrid for representation; I shall therefore pass them over, and barely relate a few anecdotes of his private life, which will sufficiently enable you to form a judgment of his whole character.

A man who, from one of the poorest employments by which a wretched life can be honestly sustained, came unexpectedly to the possession of a considerable fortune, by the death of a relation, who would have suffered him to perish for want of a morsel of bread, had some way conceived such a confidence in this person, that upon his own death, in a very little time after his elevation, he entrusted his orphan daughter to his care, together with what he had been able to save for her during his short possession of his estate, the inheritance of it passing away, for want of his having male issue, to another branch of the family.

During the minority of his ward, he took care to educate her according to the direction of her father, in a decent but frugal manner, as the fortune she had a right to expect, was not sufficient to place her above a necessity of industry and economy; but upon her coming of age, he was obliged to act another part: He had spent the greatest part of her fortune in his pleasures; for, strange to think! even he had a passion for the pleasures of polite life, and was admitted into the genteel company, to enjoy them, without any enquiry into his character or station, while he was able to bear the expense. Such a situation must have been distressing to any other man; but the business of his profession soon suggested a method of disengaging himself, which his extensive principles made no objection to his putting in practice.

On the day before she was to receive from him the fortune which was the whole foundation of her future hopes in life, he shewed no signs of uneasiness, but confidently gave her notice, that he designed to pay her the moment she was entitled to receive it, and even appointed the other trustees of the will to meet at his house, and be witnesses to his punctual execution of his trust. Such a conduct naturally gave satisfaction to every person concerned, and entirely removed some apprehensions which they had entertained before. But they soon found reason to change their sentiments again. For, that very evening

he took an occasion to go through a bye street, just after it became dark, and when he thought himself in no danger of being taken notice of, where he rolled himself in the kennel, battered his head against the stones, as if he had received several severe strokes, and scattered some papers, he had in his pocket for the purpose, about the streets; and then, in that abused appearance, and with all the symptoms of affright and despair in his looks, run into a neighboring coffee house, where he told the company, that he had been just knocked down, and robbed of a considerable sum of money, which he was to pay the next day.

Some of them instantly went to the place in which he said this had happened, where they found his hat and wig, and the papers he had left for them, which at first gained credit to the story; but when the general tenor of his character, and the circumstances of his being to pay that sum the next day, came to be considered, the whole artifice was seen through, especially as he never offered to prove where he had received the money, nor gave any reason for his carrying such a sum about him, the very bulk and weight of which, (for he said it was all in specie, to prevent too particular an enquiry about bank notes) must have been a trouble and incumbrance to him; but rarely alledged, that he had always kept the money by him in cash, ever since he had received it: and if any one expressed the least doubt of what he said, or desired to have these particulars better explained, he directly charged them with making insinuations injurious to his character and credit, which he threatened to vindicate by law.

Such a menace, from such a man, was not ineffectual. The injured lady was absolutely deprived of every means of doing herself justice; and, as the poor are ever friendless, no unconcerned person cared to enter into a dispute with one of his known experience, and who was acquainted with methods of putting his menaces in execution, which the most innocent might not find it easy to guard against; besides, it was universally and well known, that even if the whole affair could be detected, he was not able to make satisfaction. Thus every circumstance concurred to give success to his scheme, though not quite so smoothly as he could wish; and the poor young lady having no redress, was obliged to return to the low state from which she had so lately been raised, and in which she still lives a life of servitude; happy had she never been flattered with better hopes.

But though he could not escape the reach of man, divine justice was not to be defeated so, whose vengeance attacked him in so signal a manner, as plainly shewed the just retaliation of the unerring hand of heaven.

Seared as his heart must be by such a life, to the more general feelings of humanity, nature was not quite debauched, and he felt the tenderness and fond anxiety of paternal love in all its force, for an only daughter, on whose education, in all the polite accomplishments of the more exalted ranks of life, he spared neither pains nor expense, supporting and adorning her in the genteelest manner, and taking evident delight in lavishing, on such uses, all that he could acquire by every possible means.

Such a conduct, though carried to an excess, had something so amiable in it, that, in some measure, it palliated the blacker parts of his character, and even weakened the credit of many of the stories told of him. But just as he was beginning to enjoy the fruits of his care, by seeing his daughter's eminence in the accomplishments he had taken such pains to teach universally acknowledged, an event happened that not only deprived him of that pleasure, but also turned the merit of all his former fondness into the foulest reproach.

His daughter was observed, for some time, to bear the appearance of the most poignant distress. Whenever she was asked the cause of it, by any of her friends, she would melt into a flood of tears, nor would give any other answer, than that she was the most miserable of human beings. This raised a variety of conjectures, some of which were far from being advantageous to her. But at length the secret was revealed. She flew one day, in the utmost agony of distress, to a lady of her acquaintance, who had seemed to show the liveliest sense of her grief, and begged her protection from the cruelty of her father, which, she said, was too great to be borne, ever since she had refused to gratify an impious passion which he had long entertained for her, and which had been the motive of all his care and expense in her education.

Such stories are so shocking to human nature, that they are generally doubted; but his character gave such weight to any charge against him, that this was universally believed. At first he made some efforts to induce his daughter to return to him; but she was deaf to his solicitations, and, being destitute of every other means of support, threw herself upon the favor of the public, and lives by her skill in the accomplishments which he took so much pains to have her taught. This was not only a severe mortification to his pride, but also made him be looked upon with such horror and detestation, that he has been ever since secluded from the society of every person of virtue or reputation.

I see you wonder at the inconsistency of such a person appearing in the situation you see him at present, contributing to a public charity, for the relief of the calamities of the poor. To

one who can look no farther into man than as he appears at the present moment, such a conduct justly appears unaccountable; but consider, that these are the only places now open for him to mix with persons of character and fortune: for institutions of this kind make no distinction of persons, but receive, indiscriminately, the benefactions of all who offer. Besides, a genius, so ready as his, can turn every thing to advantage, and extract profit even from giving charity. One instance of this kind of address will prove the justice of this reflection, and shew, that in every action of his life, he really preserves a consistency of character.

Some years ago the sea broke over its banks, in a distant part of the kingdom, and not only laid the country waste for a great extent, but also threatened the ruin of the whole, if some means were not immediately applied to put a stop to it. Such an exigence required instant care. The government sent workmen directly to repair the breach, who were obliged to struggle with all the severities of the season, in a most inhospitable climate, to effect their work, it being the depth of winter, and the danger admitting of no delay.

So severe a service naturally excited the compassion of this people, the most humane and generous under heaven. Accordingly a public subscription was opened, to buy warm cloathing for the laborers, thus employed for the advantage of the public, which met with such general approbation, that a fund sufficient for the purpose was immediately raised. This person, from the reason hinted above, was one of the first subscribers, and appeared most active in promoting the scheme, offering frequently to undertake the most troublesome part of the conduct of it: But some of them who were acquainted with his character, absolutely refused to let him interfere in any manner that should give him the least power over the fund. However, as they did not think proper to make the motives of this caution public, he took an opportunity, one day, when they were indispensibly obliged to be absent, to renew his offer, which his assiduity and success in soliciting subscriptions gave such weight to, that it was received, and he was appointed to purchase and send down some particular articles, that appeared to be immediately wanted, to pay for which, five hundred pounds were directly given into his hands.

This was what he had all along labored for. Accordingly, as soon as he received the money, he remitted of his assiduity, and came no more to their meetings, never taking the least care about the things, for the purchase of which it had been given to him. So flagrant an act of injustice raised the resentment of every one concerned; but that he was prepared for, and despised; and, when they required him to return the money, he gave

them a bill for his own trouble, in which he charged every step he had ever gone, to solicit and promote the subscription, and fees of agency for every shilling he had received and paid in the course of it, by which means he greatly overbalanced their demand.

Barefaced as such an imposition was, they had no redress; for he had carefully made his charge according to the rates of his profession; and, though it had been always the intention of every one to bestow their labor as well as their money, without any lucrative view of return, yet, as he had never entered into an actual engagement to that effect, there was now no possibility of defeating his charge.

Such an attempt can never be made with success a second time, as the first instance raises a general alarm. However, he still persists to join in every thing of the kind that is proposed, in hopes of seizing some such lucky opportunity as he did before. But it is easy to foresee that he will be disappointed, for though he exerts himself so strenuously, and takes upon him to offer his advice and direction, as you see, the prejudice against him is so strong, that every thing he says is suspected of design, every thing he proposes rejected, even without examining. Nay, so strong is the detestation of him grown, since this affair of his daughter, that some societies have refused him admission, and others even gone so far, as to expel him, in the most ignominious manner, from among them.

CHAPTER XXI.

I SHALL NOW present you with a character, the folly of which is a shade to its virtues, and shews them through a medium of ridicule and contempt, more humbling to human vanity than the most atrocious vice.

Observe that skeleton, that figure of famine, who, even after a feast, looks as if he had fasted for a month, and was just ready to perish for want. That is another of the principal promoters, and, indeed, supporters of public charity, from the best of motives: his benefactions always flowing from the benevolence of his heart, though too often qualified in the manner, by circumstances that throw both the gift and giver into ridicule.

For such is the vehemence of his temper, that, not satisfied with providing for the wants of the poor, he will see that the supplies which he bestows are applied in the manner he directs, which introduces him too familiarly into the domestic distresses of the unhappy, many of whom would rather perish for want, than make the circumstances of their wants known: nor is his

fortune only devoted to those uses, his very personal service is always ready, particularly in some cases, where, unfortunately, a motive of a very different nature from his real one is too liable to be mistaken for it, by the malignant temper of the times.

There is no situation of human distress that calls so strongly for compassion and relief, as child-birth. How severe then must the case of those unhappy creatures be, who are left to struggle through such pangs, unassisted, unprovided with any of the comforts, so necessary to support nature in such a conflict.

A sense of this struck his humane heart! He felt the distress, and liberally supplied the relief. Well had he stopped here! But fearing that such relief should be misapplied, or insufficient, he would attend himself, to see that nothing was wanted; and at length, to make his assistance complete, learned the *obstetric* art, and now necessarily has more business in it, as he pays for being employed, by the benefactions he bestows, than any one member of the profession.

Laudable as this care, and the motive of it is, it would have been much better, had not the sanguineness of his temper hurried him so far! Had he been content to supply their wants, and let others, whose profession it more immediately is, administer relief. For now, what a field does it open for ill natured ridicule, to see a man of his consequence descend to offices, in the ordinary acceptation of the world, so far beneath him? How easy is it to say! How easy to be believed, that idle curiosity, or some grosser motive, prompts to such uncommon assiduity?

Nor is the evil of this indiscretion confined to him alone; it reflects a kind of ridicule upon the very virtue it would serve; and makes less sanguine minds refrain from the good, for fear they should also share in the reproach.—For it is not sufficient for a man to have the testimony of his own conscience for the rectitude of his intentions; there is also a debt of appearance due to the public, to avoid offence, and inculcate virtue by example.

One instance will illustrate this, and shew the inconveniences of his inconsiderate zeal.

A poor woman applied to him for relief some time before the moment. According to his custom, he supplied her necessities, and took a direction where to call and see her. The woman, either mistaken herself, or tempted by distress to deceive him, told him a wrong time, which made him come too soon; and as he always made her some charitable present whenever he came, she still found some complaints to induce him to repeat his visits.

At length, the frequency of his coming took the notice of the alley in which she lived, who could not conceive any honest business that a gentleman of his fine appearance could have with-

such a poor woman, in so obscure a place; and as such remarks are always improved, some friend hinted to the woman's husband, a labouring man who was out at his work all day, and therefore could not be witness of his disgrace, that his wife had many improper visitors come to her, and must certainly have taken to bad courses, to encourage such doings.

The cuckold in imagination went directly home, in the greatest rage at his dishonor, but the name of the visitor, and an assurance that there came no other, soon pacified him, especially as a ready thought struck him, that he might turn the good man's humanity to an advantage, of a nature very different from what he designed; for the fellow was well supplied with what is called *mother-wit*, which want had sharpened and freed from every restraint of honesty. He therefore sullenly told his wife, that it might be so as she said, but he would have a better proof than her word for it, and therefore she must let him see her visitor the next time he came, and, as she valued her life, assent to every thing which he, her husband, should do or say.

The readiness of her consent encouraged him to open his design to her, which her nuptial obedience, and hopes of gain, made her not only give in to, but she also improved the scheme to a certainty of success.

The husband accordingly, having prepared some of his associates, placed them properly, the next time the gentleman went to visit his wife, who immediately, upon his coming into the room, began to cry out, and implore his assistance.

Though the business came a little inconveniently upon him, as he was full dressed, he would not desert her in her distress, but directly set about giving her the necessary assistance in the hurry of which, some unlucky stoop burst the string that tied his breeches behind, and down they fell about his heels.

Though this disaster disconcerted him a good deal, the cries of his patient would not give him time to adjust himself, but he was proceeding in his business, with the most anxious assiduity, when in rushed the husband, with his gang, and rewarded his care with a stroke that felled him, fettered as he was in his breeches, to the ground.

The scene was now changed! the woman no longer in labour, cried only for revenge, "*on the base man who had attempted her virtue,*" as the witnesses present attested they had heard her before, and now caught him in the very fact; which the posture he was in, and above all, the circumstance of his breeches, too strongly confirmed, to the crowd whom the noise had drawn together.

Terrified almost to death at the threats of the enraged husband, who could hardly be held from taking personal vengeance that very moment, and sensible of the consequence, should pub-

ic fame catch hold of such a tale, the poor *criminal* threw himself on his knees, and convinced that all vindication of his innocence would be in vain, besought only a compensation for his offence.

This was just what the parties wanted; but still to increase his terrors, and enhance the price of his escape, such difficulties were raised, as made him glad to yield to any terms they could impose; and, accordingly, he not only purged himself of having done any actual dishonor to her husband, for the intention they would not admit him to controvert, but also made satisfaction to his resentment for the attempt, with 100*l.* for which, as he had not a sum immediately about him, he gave a draught on his banker, and waited in *duress*, till the arrival of it released him.

This misfortune made him more cautious for some time; but he begins to forget it now, and goes on with his business as before. One thing, indeed, he takes sufficient care about, and that is, that the waist of his breeches is properly secured: for so strong is the impression, which that accident made upon him, that he never walks a dozen steps without pulling them up.

You see most of them begin to nod, I shall therefore draw the curtain here, and leave them to their nap, with this observation, that a few such examples as the clergyman, and many of the the kind there are, particularly eminent in this exalted virtue of charity in both sexes, are sufficient to take off the prejudice which the others must excite, and to preserve the proper respect to principles they propose to imitation.

CHAPTER XXII

WHEN I had taken a sufficient view of the governors, I had leisure to turn my observations to the servants of the society, whose behaviour raised an indignation too strong to be expressed by words.

If the governors feasted, they paid for their feasting; but the servants feasted no less, and were paid for it! Nor was this enormity confined to this day; their whole time was one continued scene of it, and much the greater part of the contributions of the public was prostituted to this abominable abuse: while the poor, for whose relief they were given, too often languished in want of the meanest necessities, the fund being insufficient for their wants and the luxury and wages of their servants.

I was diverted from these reflections, by an uproar, in one of the private apartments of the house, where some of the superior servants had got together over a bottle of wine, to settle their respective dividends of the subscriptions of the day.

I call them servants, for that is the proper appellation of all who serve for hire. As I was yet undisposed of, to any particular person, I had it in my power, as I have told you before, to range through the whole territories of the society to which I belonged, and therefore flew to see what might be the cause of this riot, in so improper a place, where I was witness to such a scene as almost transcends belief.

At the upper end of the table sat the *treasurer*, (for it would be a reproach to the poorest society to have fewer officers than the state) with his accounts before him. After a bumper to the success of the charity—"Mr. Steward," said he, "our subscriptions have been so good this year, that I think we may venture to enlarge our salaries, a little; for last year they were really scarce worth a gentleman's acceptance."

"That is true," replied the steward, "and I believe we may enlarge the house allowance too, for, upon the present establishment, it is hardly enough for the days we meet here, and will not afford any thing to carry home, to entertain a friend with, as a gentleman would desire:—it is but swelling some of the *sick articles*, which at present are scarce above the consumption. When I was overseer of the parish, we managed things better. We then lived like gentlemen: nay, I remember when I was church warden, that we spent the whole summer jaunting about the country, in pursuit of a gentleman, who had a child sworn to him; for fifty shillings, which he had been ordered to pay, till the bill of our expenses came to fifteen pounds, and yet nobody could say against it: so that it is our own fault, if we do not live well."

"Right," said the apothecary, "nor was the appointment for medicines any way sufficient. Had half what the physicians prescribed been given, there would have been nothing to be got by the contract."—"How, Mr. Apothecary," returned the cook, with a sneer, "nothing to be got! pray, was not all you got clear gain? I am sure, from the benefit received by the patients, there did not appear to have been any thing above brick dust, or powder of rotten post, in any of the stuffs they took!"

"Pray S—S—Sir," stuttered the apothecary, in a rage, "wh—wh—what's that you say? Who m—m—made you a judge of medicines!"—"Not you, I thank God, sir," said the cook, as my health shews. But I have a good reason for what I say; for though I put double the quantity of meat in my broth, I could not prevent the people's dying, nor make the few who recovered, able to go out in twice the usual time." "S—S—Sir, 'tis all a d—d—damn'd lie. Their d—d—dying was occasioned by the p—p—poorness of the b—b—broth, and the bad-

ness of their p—p—provisions, and not by the w—w—want of medicines; and I'll p—p—prove it, sir: and how you sup—p—ported your family on the m—m—meat that should have been d—d—dressed for the sick!"—"You'll prove it, sir! Take care that you do! Gentlemen! take notice of what he says! this is striking at my character; and must affect my bread."

"That is true, Mr. Cook," said the secretary, who had been an attorney's clerk, "and whatever strikes at a man's character, so as to effect his bread, is actionable."—"B—b—but sir, he attacked my ch—cha—character first, and I'll b—b—bring my action too."—"So you may, sir," replied the lawyer, "the action will lie on both sides."

The dispute had hitherto been kept up with such heat, that the company could not interpose a word to pacify them, but the mention of the law made it every one's concern in a moment.—"Silence, gentlemen," said the treasurer, raising slowly his august bulk, and striking his hand upon the table, "Silence, I say, and let me hear no more of this brawling. Mr. Cook! Mr. Apothecary! what do you both mean? To discover the secrets of our society, and to blow us all up at once? You both heard me say, that every thing, which was wrong should be adjusted! Could you not wait for that, without falling into this indecent, this unprofitable wrangle? As for you, Mr. Secretary, the leven of your profession will break out; it is sufficient to infect the whole mass! Is this your promise, your oath? to follow your business, and do as you are ordered quietly and implicitly, without meddling any farther, or perplexing us with the tricks of your former trade? But it was in vain to expect it.—A lawyer can as well live without food, as without fomenting quarrels, and setting his neighbors together by the ears: bring an action indeed! and so betray our mystery, to the impertinent remarks of counsellors, and the scoffs of templars and attorneys clerks. Let me hear one word more of the kind, and this moment I declare off all connection, and leave every man to shift for himself. Our general oath of secrecy, attested under our hands, secures me from information, as it would invalidate the testimony of us all.

With these words, he turned about, to leave the room, when the steward, catching him by the breast, pulled him into his chair, and holding him down, by main force, addressed him thus:—"Good God, sir! what do you mean! to take notice of the warmth of madmen, who know not what they say: you, Mr. Treasurer, have moved in an higher sphere of life, and ought to be above such things. You were not raised from cleaning the shoes of a pettifogging attorney, in whose drudgery you lost your ears! from being scullion in a nobleman's kitch-

en, or servant to a mountebank, to dispense his packets to the mob; you were not raised, I say, from any of these stations to the rank of a gentleman, by this office, and should be above taking offence at the lowlived behaviour of such creatures, who know no better."—"Nor w—w—was I a fullhanded ten times b—b—b—bankrupt (interrupted the apothecary, as he would have done sooner, had rage left him the power of utterance) that b—b—b—being unable to get credit any l—l—l—longer, came from cheating the p—p—p—public, to cheating the p—p—p—poor! nor a c—c—c—cast off, worn out p—p—p—pimping footman, whose dirty services w—w—were rewarded with this place."

This made the madness general, and they were just going to proceed to blows, when the porter entered hastily, and told them the committee were adjourned to their chamber, and sent for their accounts, to sit upon them directly.

This brought them all to their senses, and made them friends in a moment. "Gentlemen," said the treasurer, "we have all been too hot, all to blame; but let there be no more of it! let us agree among ourselves, and we may defy the world."

Upon this a general shake of the hand put an end to the whole contest, and they proceeded to business, as if no such thing had ever happened, unanimous in their endeavors to cheat the public, and fatten on the spoils of the poor.

By that time the committee had smoaked a pipe, and drank their coffee, the accounts were laid before them, over which they nodded a few moments, and then passed them without exception. The next thing was to pay the salaries of the officers, in

- which distribution it fell to my lot to be given to the chaplain.



CHRYSAI,

OR THE

ADVENTURES OF A GUINEA.

VOLUME SECOND,

BOOK THE FIRST.

CHAPTER I.

I HAVE often been apprehensive, that the manner in which I express myself, may lead you into some mistakes of my meaning; the signification of words, in the language of men, being so unsettled, that it is scarce possible to convey a determinate sense, without such a periphrasis, as would take up too much time in so complicated scenes as those I describe; for where different, or perhaps contrary meanings are signified by the same word, how easy is it for a mind, prone to error, to take the wrong one?

For instance, the character of a good man may be thought to be as safe from misrepresentation, from the immutability of the virtues which constitute it, as any that can be attributed either by, or to, human frailty: and yet how variously, how contradictory is it applied?

On the Royal Exchange he is a good man, who is worth ten thousand pounds, and pays his bills punctually, by whatever private and public frauds and injustice he has amassed that sum,

and maintains his credit. At the politer end of the world, goodness assumes another appearance, and is attributed to him who entertains his company well, pays his play-debts, and supports his honor with his sword, though he is guilty of the basest of every civil and moral virtue, and lives in professed violation of all laws, human and divine: while in the strictness of truth and propriety of expression, no greater abuse of words can be conceived, than that of prostituting this character on either, except it were in compliance with the modern, modish way of speaking by contraries.

I do not give this as the only instance! they are innumerable, and occur in every moment's conversation. The horse, that wins the match, goes *damn'd* fast; as the one that loses, goes *damn'd* slow. The weather in summer is *hell-fire* hot, in winter *hell-fire* cold.

Now what sense can the very devil himself, to whom you refer all difficulties, make of such contradictions? Though, indeed, these particular phrases give him pleasure, as they shew the inclination which men have to his empire, by making the very terrors of it familiar to their minds in their common conversation.

But I am not at leisure to prescribe rules for avoiding this confusion, one of the most extensive causes of human error. I shall only give you some caution to prevent your falling into it, in respect to what I say to you.

You are to observe then, that whenever I speak in the person of another, I always would be understood in the sense which that person would be understood in at that time, without any farther regard to moral, or physical truth, or propriety of speech. But when I speak my own sentiments, (which indeed I very rarely do) I shall always deliver them with perspicuity and precision, as far as the jargon I am obliged to use will allow, and would have my words taken in the sense usually given to them, in the particular subject I may be then speaking of; as the barrenness of language has not been able to afford distinct terms to them all; but is forced to wrest known ones to different, and often unknown meanings; a proof of the injustice of the general complaint against the verbosity of the moderns; whereas, if (by many) distinct words are meant, their fault is directly the reverse.

My new master was a person of some learning, and what was of more use, of thorough knowledge of the world; but wanting friends and interest to advance him to those dignities which he thought due to his merit, he had solicited this place, in discharge of the duties of which he was indefatigably diligent, not merely for the paltry consideration of a poor salary, (for, as he was not in the secret, he had no share of the spoils) though his circumstances and knowledge of the value of money could not

let him refuse it, but to place his abilities in a more conspicuous light, where they might take the notice of his superiors.

As soon as he had received his stipend, he went home, where he found his wife dress'd in all her best clothes, and expecting him with the utmost impatience. "My dear," said she, "how could you stay abroad so late? I have been waiting for you above these two hours, and was just going without seeing you." "So late, my dear! it is scarcely six o'clock! But where are you going in such haste?"—"To the Bishops' the Rector of—died of an apoplectic fit, as he was taking his nap after dinner this evening, and you know, my intimacy with the Bishop's lady entitles me to ask any thing from her."—"But, child, this is not in her power to give, and even if it was, it is too much for a common acquaintance to expect!" "This diffidence has been your ruin! You are always afraid of asking, as if there was ruin in being refused; but that is not my case! *Ask and you shall have*, is my text! Now-a-days, nothing is got without it."—"Yes child, but too frequent or improper asking brings contempt."—"The manner, the manner of asking is the thing! And you cannot think I want to be taught that now, after having lived so long among the great. Often have I known a request, properly made, gain a man a place, for which he has never dream'd of! As to the greatness of this living, never mind that! the greater it is, the greater will be your obligation to the person who gets it for you. What money have you got about you? we shall make a party perhaps. And let me have the five hundred pound note; I may have occasion for that too, to make a bett."

"There, my dear, is the money I received to day! I'll step up for the note: but pray, my dearest, take care what you do! It is our all! And be sure you are not tempted to any thing like simony! It is a great crime, and makes a man incapable of ever rising, if it is detected."—"And the fool that is detected, deserves never to rise! You may call a thing by what nonsensical name you please; but if knowledge of the world were to prevent people's rising in it, I do not know who would be uppermost now-a-days. Bring me the note, and leave the rest to me. You shall know nothing of what I intend till it is done, and then the fault, if any, will be mine.—Here, Jane, settle the furbelows of my scarf, and, John, call a chair to the door directly." "Well, my dear, here is the note: I leave all to you! I do not desire to know what you intend: But remember, my dear, this note is our all!" "Never fear! The chair is come, and I must lose no time! You will divert yourself with your children, or books, I suppose: or go to the coffee-house. Perhaps I may not return till 'tis late."—"I wish you success, my dear, and pray be cautious."

With these words the Doctor retired, but to which of the amusements his wife mentioned, I cannot say, for he had given me to her, who carried me away to the Bishop's.

When she came there the footman answered, that it was not his lady's night, and she was not at home: but my mistress had lived too long among the great, to take his words in their literal meaning, but putting half a crown into his hand, told him she had some earnest business, and must see her. The doors instantly flew open, his lady was at home, and my mistress shewn up without any farther difficulty.

The bishop's lady was sitting at a snug party with three or four select friends, and seemed not much pleased at the intrusion of my mistress, to whom she scarce deign'd a nod, but turning to the footman, "I thought, sirrah," said she, "that I was not to be at home this evening! I suppose I shall have all the mob of the town let in upon me."—"Dear madam," replied my mistress, "the man is not to blame! He told me you were not at home; but having some very earnest business, I made bold to break through your orders; but I hope for your pardon when you know the cause of my intrusion."—"O madam," returned the lady, "you know I am always glad of your company. I only chide the fellow for not obeying my orders. Pray be seated, madam; as soon as the rubber is up, I shall wait upon you."—"Dear madam," added my mistress, "you need not give yourself that trouble; now I am with you, my business can wait your leisure."

CHAPTER II.

WHEN the rubber was finished, my mistress was asked to cut in, one of the party being taken ill, which she did; and sat out the whole evening; her success at cards keeping up her spirits, and giving her hopes of the like in the greater affair she came about; but her patroness had very different fortune, having lost every rubber; and what was still worse, several by-betts, which she made to bring herself home.

This put her into such a temper that the moment the rest of the company was gone, she turned to my mistress, who saw them all out—"And now pray, madam, may I ask you what was the great business that brought you here this evening?" said she, "unlucky business it has been for me, I know; for I have never held a card since you came: but I shall take care that rascal who let you in shall never serve me so again! He shall strip and turn off, without his breakfast, the moment I am up in the morning."—"Dear madam," replied my mistress,

unabashed at such a salute, "have patience for a moment, and I hope to make you amends for all! Will you please to sit down to one sober party of picquet? You are always too hard for me, yet I'll venture all my winnings, and perhaps what I have to say in the mean time may compensate for my intrusion."

The lady could not imagine what she meant, but the thought of so good a match brought her a little to her temper, and though it was near ten o'clock, she sat down to cards with as much keenness, as if six hours drudging at them had only whetted their desire for play.

As soon as a *repique* or two had confirmed her good humor, my mistress says to her, "Dear madam, that is right! Have you heard of the sad accident that happened this evening?"—"Not I," replied the other, "pray what was it?"—"Why poor Doctor ——— was taken after dinner, and died in his chair!"—"Aye! then, I suppose, he had plumb porridge and over-eat himself, and so burst a pudding, as we say to children. Ha, ha, ha!"

"Ha, ha, ha!—But pray, madam, have you any faith in dreams? What do you think? I dreamed last night that I saw you at court, on some great occasion, with just such a diamond necklace on as the Countess's, which you had bought with five hundred pounds, that you won from me on a bet; you laying, that my husband would, and I that he would not, get the Doctor's living! Well, to be sure, there must be something more than ordinary in it; for can you believe it! this very morning I put a bank note for five hundred pounds in my pocket, here it is, though I did not think of the poor man's death, till I heard it as I came by this evening, when my dream ran so strongly in my head that I could not forbear breaking in upon you, a rudeness I should never have been guilty of on any other occasion,"—"Dear madam, you need not make any apology to me! You, know your company is always welcome, I am always at home to you!"—"But madam, what do you think of my dream?"

"I don't know. I only wish it were to prove true!" "For five hundred pounds could never come more seasonably."—"Then you must win it; for my heart is set upon making the bet, and I assure you, I have such a regard for you, that I do not even wish you to lose! and that is what few gamblers can say."

"You are a pleasant creature! but as for the bet, it shall be upon condition, that my lord is not under any engagement to the minister or her grace, who got him his bishopric. If he is disengaged, I will lay you, and you shall lose, my girl, if it was ten times as much, and there's encouragement to hold. The bell rings! Will you walk down and take a bit of supper? There is no body but my lord and I; but do not take the least

notice of any thing about the matter, nor even seem to have heard of the Doctor's death should my lord mention it; but muster all your spirits, and be as entertaining as you can, for I always work him up best when he goes to bed in a good humor.

The picquet match being thus at an end, I was paid away to the Bishop's lady, whose winnings and expectations sent her to supper in high spirits, where she found her lordship already seated in a very thoughtful mood.

After the usual complimentary expletives, that usher in every polite conversation, "Pray, my lord," says my new mistress to her husband, "what will you eat? Shall I help you to a bit of this fricasee? I believe it is very good."—"No my dear, I thank you," replied his lordship, "I have not the least appetite! What is it pray?"—"Sweet breads and cock's combs," returned his lady, "you used to like them, and they are very nice! Or will you help yourself to a bit of that fowl before you? something you must eat."—"No my dear, I am obliged to your care; but I do not choose any thing to night: I am not very well! We all eat too much! Repletion kills half the people of England! We eat too much!"—"You are going to be hip'd, my dear! John, give your master a glass of Madeira. Fill the glass! Eating never hurted any one, who washed down his victuals with a glass of good wine; horse-meals, indeed, are enough to choak human creatures! So! do you not find yourself better now? Taste this fricasee; you cannot think how good it is!"—"Well, you will have your way, you make do as you please, though never so contrary to my inclinations! Do you call this a fricasee? I thought fricasees had spice put in them! This is as insipid as chop'd hay! Lord deliver us from such cooks! The badness of servants, in general, seems to be a judgment on the vices of the age!" "Well, my dear, taste that fowl, it looks like a good one, and the cook could not spoil that. Pray, madam, shall I trouble you to help his lordship to a leg and a wing, and a bit of the breast?"—"You give me too much! I shall never be able to eat all this! beside, you know, my dear, I choose a bit of the rump." Eat that first, my dear, and then you shall have the rump: but what has happened to make you so low spirited this evening?" "O child, who can be other than low spirited, when such instances of mortality happen before our eyes every hour? Who can tell but the misfortune may be his own next moment? There's doctor ———, poor man! was taken off this evening, without a minute's warning to prepare for such a tremendous change, just after he had made an hearty dinner! Here, John, take away my plate; I will not eat a bit more, nor ever sleep after dinner again!"—"And, John, give your master another hum-

per of Madeira: that was what the doctor wanted; he eat a great deal, and did not allow himself any drink. Drink good wine, and never fear that eating will hurt you."—"Ah! but that was not the case of his grace of ———, who lies this moment in the agonies of death! his physicians left him two hours ago! The Lord prepare us all, and give us notice of his coming! He did not stint himself of wine; he took his bottle cheerfully, good man!"—"Cheerfully, did you say? I should have said sottishly; for he has done nothing but drink for these many years past! He has run the opposite extreme from the doctor, drinking too much, and not eating enough to support nature. And I hope you do not say he has gone without warining at fourscore? he has had time enough to prepare: but why should these examples affect you particularly? You do not eat like the doctor, nor drink like his grace, and are young enough to be son to the youngest of them; why then should you fear their fate. Here, John, give me a pint glass half full of Madeira, and reach me three or four of those jellies. Now, my dear, if you are afraid to eat or drink, sup this with a bit of bread, and I will answer for its agreeing with you."

My late mistress sat all this time at her supper, without being able to join in the conversation; but as soon as his lordship's taking the jellies made a pause in his lady's tenderness, she called for a glass of wine, and bowing to the bishop, drank to him by the title of his grace very gravely.

His lordship started, and his lady stared, while she finished her glass without any emotion, and seemed quite unconscious of having said any thing unusual or improper. This behaviour still embarrassed them more; when the lady, unable to contain her surprize,—“Dear madam,” said she, “what have you said? Or how came you to address my lord by that title?”—"I hope, madam,” replied the other, “I have not said any thing improper! You really frighten me! I hope I have not been failing in my respect, or addressed his lordship by any improper title?”—"I cannot say an improper one indeed! but one that does not belong to him, at least as yet,” returned the lady;—"Dear madam, what do you mean? Pray do not distress me! but you must divert yourself surely! It is not possible that I could fail in any respect to his grace?”—"Ha, ha, ha! There it is again! Fail in your respect! No. You only raised your respect too high! You called him his grace, that's all.”—"And is that all? Thank heaven that I did! and long live his grace, I say again,” said she dropping on her knees, and eagerly kissing his hand, “long live your grace! There is, there must be truth in dreams, and infidels alone can doubt it.”

At the mention of dreams, the bishop, who had hitherto continued to sup up his jelly without seeming to take any notice of what they were saying, could not forbear shewing some emotion; for he had the strongest faith in them, and always sanguinely defended their credit, especially since his present elevation had confirmed those of his grandmother. "What dreams? pray, good madam," said he, addressing my late mistress with a visible anxiety, "what dreams do you mean? Those which were thought to have respect to me, are understood to be already accomplished." "Please your grace, the impulse of the spirit is upon me, and I cannot call you by any other title! Please your grace, I say, I dream'd last night, as I told your lady but just now, that I met her at court, on some very great occasion, as fine as hands could make her, I told her this just now, before I knew one syllable of his grace's death, and that she came up to me smiling, and thank'd me for the cause of her coming there, for it was I who had made you a great man!—Now what could this possibly mean, but what has happened here this moment, when by giving you this title first, and lord knows, I did it without the least design, or even sensible of it when I did it, I may in some manner be said to have made you the great man it belonged to: let the world say what they will, I do believe there is truth in dreams, and I think mine is out now."

She had ran on with this rant at such a rate, that it was impossible for the bishop to interrupt her, even had he been so inclined; but that was far from being the case: he heard her with attention, and what she said made such an impression on him, that he sat some time musing on it, after she had stop'd, before he had power to speak a word.

As for his lady, she at once took it to be all a fetch, calculated merely to forward the scheme of the wager about the doctor's living, and as such resolved to humor it, and not interrupt his meditations, but addressing herself to the other, "Indeed madam," said she "I do not know what to say to this affair! When you told me your dream just now, I made nothing of it, but this account of his grace's death almost staggers me! Well, if this succeeds, and who knows what may happen? I shall ever hereafter have more faith in dreams!"

CHAPTER III.

BY this time his lordship had considered the matter, and addressing himself to the dreamer, "Pray, madam," said he, "what time had you this vision or dream? In the night or towards the

morning."—"In the morning, my lord," replied she, "at the conclusion of my second sleep: and, indeed, it made such an impression upon my mind, that I could not go to sleep after: for it was not in the confusion of common dreams! I saw every thing distinctly and regularly, as if I was in the very place; and particularly, your lady appeared as plainly to me as she sits there, lord bless us! and by the same token, she was dress'd in white damask, spick and span new, and had the most beautiful diamond necklace on, that ever my eyes beheld; and charmingly she look'd I thought."

"I really do not know what to say to this matter," replied his lordship with great deliberation; "the visions of the morning have ever been held in most repute; for then the mind has recovered from the fatigues of the preceding day, and is able to exert its abilities, and look forward into the time to come. There are some good circumstances I own in this dream! I am glad that my wife was not dress'd in colours; that would have been an ill omen; but white is the peculiar garment of success; angels are clad in white! and in this case particularly, it may prefigure the episcopal lawn, as that is an emblematical type of the purity of episcopal function; and the episcopal and archiepiscopal differ only in degree. As for the necklace, there may be more in that also than is apprehended. Precious stones are the *insignia* of dignity, and in the Jewish priesthood particularly, were symbolical of the highest order; for none of the priests wore them, but the supreme or high priest, whose dignity answer'd nearly to that of primate with us; and if such farther blessings should be in the divine will, it were impious and ungrateful to refuse its favours. Perhaps I speak unintelligibly to you; but the opinions of the learned must be delivered in their phrase." "Pray, my lord, proceed; I could hear your lordship for ever; I am always the wiser and the better for hearing your lordship."

"Then, as to the credit to be given to dreams," resumed his lordship "though the scepticism of these unhappy times may deny it, yet the piety of wiser antiquity was of another opinion, of which numberless instances might be given out of the holy scriptures. And among the gentiles, the greatest of their poets says, that dreams proceed from Jove, that is, from the supreme Deity, whom they erroneously called by that name. And though the heathens were guilty of great superstitions in this particular of dreams, it was not in the credit they gave them, but in the methods which they used to procure them; such as offering sacrifices and sleeping in the skins of the victims, and many others; whereas the dream that comes from heaven, comes unthought and unexpected, and should be re-

ceived with reverence... And if this is such, and I own it but much of the appearance, thy will be done, O Lord; thy servant submits as it is his duty."

Greatly as they must have been edified by this elaborate dissertation, the ladies had much ado to refrain from laughing in his face while he delivered it, especially his wife, who knew not which to admire most, the readiness of the thought, or the ease with which it was received. But the dreamer had a farther scheme in her head, to carry on which she now got up to go away; and bending the knee to the Bishop, "My lord," said she, "may I beg your lordship's blessing! I hope, and I am confident in that hope, that mine was not a common dream, from the impression it made on my mind, which could not have been stronger, if I had actually been present at your lady's kissing the king's hand on your promotion: but if my zeal has hurried me too far in my expressions of it, I rely on your goodness to forgive my fault, which was rather an enthusiasm than a design; and so, my lord, I beg leave to wish you a good night."

With these words she withdrew; and her patroness wondered she had not thrown her a wink, and desirous to have a laugh with her at her husband's credulity, went as to see her to her chair, when turning with her into another room, "That was an excellent thought," said she, "and will make our affair quite easy if he is not engaged." "I do not understand you, madam," replied the other, "pray what thought do you mean?" "Why chide that of the dream; what else should I mean?" "A thought dear madam! Why, do not you think I was serious, and and the dream real?" "Not one word of either, I assure you; and I wonder at your asking me that question here, where no one is present to observe us." "Dear madam, you have quite mistaken me, I assure you. It is true, I can jest sometimes; but in this, give me leave to say, that I was most serious; and what is more, that I am sure the event will confirm it." "You astonish me, madam; I declare I looked upon the whole as a mere finesse, to promote our scheme, about the doctor's living for your husband." "I am sorry madam that you should have such an opinion of me, as that I could invent such a story on any account." "Well, as I said before, though in another sense, I knew not what to make of the whole; but as you are so positive, and my lord seems inclined to believe you, perhaps there may be more in it than I can see; and therefore I shall suspend my opinion, till I see the end of it. This, though I promise that my assistance shall not be wanting to either part of the dream." "And I promise you that I will make good all I said, particularly about the wager and the necklace; and so, madam, I wish you a good night; I shall do myself the pleasure to call and see how you are in the morning."

This gave the whole affair a new face; and threw the bishop's lady into a meditation as profound as his lordship's. "Can this be possible?" said she to herself, "and yet how could she have the face to stand it out so, if it was not true? But then it was but a dream! Aye, but my husband says dreams are not to be slighted; and he should know more than I, at least of those things that are to be found in books. And what if it should be so after all? and that I should take place of Mrs. —, and Mrs. —, and Mrs. —, and all the rest of the bishop's ladies? — That would be charming! and I believe in my soul I shall; for I have always looked upon them with a contempt that shew'd I should be one day their superior. Well, happy come lucky, says the proverb; my endeavours shall not be wanting, as I promised Mrs. —, whose five hundred pound will be a pretty earnest of the archbishopric."

Having thus argued herself into a kind of belief of the dream, she went into his lordship, whom she found absorbed in thought about the vision: "Well, my dear," said she, sitting down by him, "what is your opinion of this strange matter? I own it is above my comprehension! At first I imagined she might have been only in jest, and have invented the whole story merely to divert your lowness of spirits; but when I went out with her into the next parlour, and put it home to her, she still persisted in it, and confirmed the truth of what she said by such asseverations, that I could not avoid believing her."

"But, my dear," replied his lordship, "she said she told you her dream before she came in here, or had heard a word of his Grace's illness?" — "She most certainly did, my lord; and with other circumstances, that make the whole still more surprising! Pray what time did the doctor die, my dear?" — "About half an hour after four." — "That is most wonderful! And pray, my dear, who is to have his living? or are you under any engagement about it?" — "No, child, I am not; nor have I yet determined whom to give it to. But why do you ask these questions? What are they to the purpose of the dream?" — "I shall tell you, my lord. You must know then that she came here about four o'clock, just as I had got up from dinner, all in the greatest hurry; and with a kind of wildness, I do not know how, in her looks, told me her dream; but with some circumstances, that I know her bashfulness would not permit her to mention before you; and these were, that I had bought a diamond necklace, she thought I had on at court, with five hundred pound which I had won from her, on a wager that you would give her husband the doctor's living. Now as he was not even sick at the time of her telling me this, there could be no design in it; and this is what makes me take the more notice of the matter."

"But are you sure, child, that she told you this so early as four o'clock?"—"Rather before it, my dear; and what makes me so positive about it is, that a little after she had finished her story, she happen'd to look at her watch, but it was down, and so she ask'd me what o'clock it was by mine, that she might set by it; and I remember it wanted exactly six minutes of four."—"Pray let me look at your watch; have you not alter'd it since?"—"No, my dear! but why do you ask?"—"Because it is nine minutes faster than mine, and it was just half an hour past four by his watch, as they told me, when he died, and his and mine were exactly together; so that the six minutes which your watch wanted of four, and the nine minutes it is faster than mine, make a quarter before four, which was three quarters before he died. This is most wonderful! for there could be no design or art in it. This is most wonderful! But there have been many revelations made in dreams, even in our own times; as for instance, that in DRELLINGCOURT; for it could be no other than a dream; and that other of the great Duke of BUCKINGHAM's rise, and afterwards of his death, as it is most judiciously and faithfully represented by a reverend historian, not to mention many more. As to the doctor's living, my dear, I make you a compliment of it; you may give it to whom you please; though the curate is a very learned and good man, and has a large family; beside that he has been recommended to me by the whole parish, whom his long residence among them, for he has been there above thirty years, has made love and respect as a father."—"Then let them provide for him, like dutiful children. What assurance! to pretend to dictate to you, as if you were not the proper judge of such matters! If it was for no other reason I would not give it to him, to teach them their duty and distance another time."

"There may be something in that; I do not like such interfering in my conduct neither; and therefore you may give it to whom you please. And her husband is a man of learning and good character too, who will not discredit any preferment; but take care that you do not do any thing improper. As to your wager, there is no harm in that; but even so, it should be kept a secret; I must know nothing of the matter."—"I thank you, my dear lord; I shall be sure to observe your directions; and the accomplishment of this part of the dream I take as an happy presage of the rest; but you must not be wanting to yourself; you had better, I think, go to her grace, and see what may offer to promote our hopes."—"That is not a bad thought, my dear; but it grows late; in the morning we shall see what is to be done." Saying this, they withdrew, whither we must follow them, for of the genial bed, "with most mysterious reverence I deem."

CHAPTER IV.

I HAVE observed your surprise and admiration at the ready presence of mind and confidence of my late mistress, who could, in a moment, invent such a story, and persist in it so steadily, as not only to impose upon the bishop's easy credulity, but even upon his wife also, who was, in a manner, in the secret of her design, but could not interrupt my story to satisfy it sooner, by giving you her history.

She was a distant relation to a noble lord, on whom the extravagance of her father left her dependant. This occasioned her being taken into his family; where she lived several years as an humble companion to his lady. As she was handsome, his lordship had a mind for a nearer relation with her; but an unfashionable virtue prevented her compliance, which turned his love into the strongest hatred, for fear she should inform his lady, to whom she was not more agreeable, and upon the same account, as her observing temper had given her an opportunity of seeing much more than her ladyship desired to have her tell.

This made her situation very unhappy in the family, and inclined her to hearken to the addresses of the chaplain, to whom his lordship gave a small vicarage with her, as did his lady five hundred pounds, that they might part decently and not provoke her to speak. As for herself, you have seen that nature was liberal to her in the endowments of her mind, which the state she was bred in improved, or rather sharpened into a thorough knowledge of the world, that enables her to take the advantage of all its follies. But to return to the bishop and his lady. This affair had made such an impression on their minds, that they could dream of nothing else all night, but pomp and precedence, which effectually secured the grant, in favour of my late mistress, from all danger of revocation.

They were scarce seated to breakfast, when word was brought them that she was below; upon which she was immediately invited up, her company being too agreeable to admit of any distance or reserve.

The compliments of the morning being being paid on all sides, his lordship, with a look of great benevolence, asked her for her husband, and if he was at home; to which she answered that he was, and ready to pay his duty to his lordship, if he had any commands to honour him with. "None that will be disagreeable, I hope," replied his lordship, "and if he is at leisure," "At leisure, my lord," replied she, in a kind of rapture, for a wink from the lady had explained the matter to her, "he is, he

must be at leisure; no business, can interfere with his duty, I'll step for him this moment." "You need not give yourself that trouble madam," returned his lordship, "John, do you go and tell Mr. ———, that I should be glad to speak with him. For, madam, I think I cannot do less than reward his learning, piety and good life, with the living of the poor doctor. It is what I have long resolved, though I never mentioned it before, because I would not torture him with expectations; and I give it to him now, thus early, and unasked, to spare his modesty, and to save myself from the solicitations of others." "Long live, God bless your grace," said she, throwing herself at his feet, and embracing his knees in ecstasy, "for so I see it will be, every thing will come out just according to my dream! I could not forbear sending to the late Archbishop's, just before I came here, and the porter, for I would not send a servant, for fear my known attachment to your lordship should make it taken notice of, brought me word, that he was at peace." This completed the bishop's faith, and prevented his sending to enquire, for the same delicate reason that she gave.

"I must wish you joy, madam," said the bishop's lady, "of this advance in your fortune! Though I am almost angry that my lord did not let me into the secret. I have lost some hours happiness by his reserve; for I always make the happiness of my friends, my own." "Dear madam, I thank you; on my knees I thank, I pray for you both; and give me leave, madam, to wish you joy of his lordship's promotion, and of your just advance in rank, as well as of all the ornaments belonging to it." "The necklace, I suppose you mean? ha, ha, ha." "I do indeed, dear madam, and of every other happiness that can attend so elevated a station."

Her husband now entered in the utmost agitation of spirits between hope and fear; for he was not a stranger to his wife's scheme; indeed he had suggested the first hint of the bett himself, but with an address that made her think it was her own, he spoke so distantly; for he always preserved the appearance of character, even with her, and the ladies not thinking it proper to be present at the mysterious ceremony of the bishop's signing the collation, which he did directly, to avoid giving offence, by refusing other applications, they withdrew, when my mistress was paid her bett, with as great pleasure, by the loser, as she felt in receiving it.

The dream being thus far happily accomplished, the successful dreamer and her husband went home in the highest joy, at being at length relieved from the anxiety of dependence, and the fears of want; while my lord prepared to pay his duty at her grace's levee, and see whether any thing should offer that might promote his part of it.

When he was ready to go, he called to his lady, to receive her advice, and recollecting that he had forgot his purse, desired to borrow her's, in which I was, and thus I changed my service once more.

When his lordship entered her grace's levee, and had paid his most humble respects, he found the conversation turn on a melancholy accident that had lately happened to a village in his diocese, which was entirely burnt to the ground by an accidental fire. There were many circumstances so moving in the account of this misfortune, as to raise the compassion of the whole company, and particularly of her grace, who said that she would most willingly contribute to the relief of their distress, but that unluckily, she had not less than a bank note for twenty pounds about her.

All the company, who knew the world, understood her grace, and dropped the subject; but my new master, who had his knowledge of mankind mostly from books, was so far from taking the hint, that he thought he shewed his respect for his patroness, by offering to change her note, or lend her whatever money she wanted.

Her grace was surprised, as the company were confounded, at the ignorant insolence of such an offer. However, as this was not an occasion for showing her resentment, she coldly told him, she would trouble him for the change, and having received it, gave two guineas, to the person who had mentioned the affair, and carelessly threw the rest, among which I was, into her pocket, not caring to pull out her purse, as it was full of money.

My late master, pleased with the thought of having been instrumental in so meritorious a benevolence; displayed his eloquence in thanks to her for her eminent charity to his poor flock, and then gave a guinea himself; for respect to her grace would not permit him to exceed the half of her bounty, as did the rest of the company, who all laughed in their sleeves, to think how my master had ruined himself with her grace, by his blunder.

But his mind was too full of the dream to observe their looks, and he was so far from being sensible, that he had done amiss, that when her grace was going to retire, he boldly stepped up to her, and begged leave to speak a word or two with her in private.

Though the assurance of this request greatly aggravated his former offence, yet she could not decently refuse such a favor to his rank, and therefore slightly nodded to him to follow her.

CHAPTER V.

THE great honour of this private audience, at first, put him into some confusion, but recollecting the consequence at stake, he, after much hesitation, made a shift to tell her, that, "sensible of her grace's great humanity and commiseration for the sufferings of the distressed, of which she had just given so noble an instance." "Pray my lord, no compliments," interrupting him with a look and accent not very encouraging, "I am not at present at leisure for them, and if you have no other business," "May it please your grace," replied the bishop, "your virtues are above compliment, and I come to give you an opportunity of exerting them, not solely to praise them." "I do not understand you my lord, and I am in some haste." "I most humbly beg your grace's pardon; I shall not delay you long. To come then briefly to the purpose, I must inform your grace, that out of the income which it has pleased the divine providence, through your grace's means, to give me, I have thought it my duty to lay by some little matter to make a return with, to the divine beneficence, in charity to his distressed creatures. Now, as your grace's kind interest was the means through which this ability was conferred upon me, I have made bold to trouble you with the distribution of my mite." "Me, my lord? You astonish me; I cannot comprehend you." "I beg your grace's indulgence for a moment. You will forgive this boldness when you know the motive! —hem, hem."

"The sufferings of my protestant brethren in Germany; I say brethren, for men should know no distinction but religion; their sufferings, I say, in this calamitous time of war and rapine, when the ambition of princes works the ruin of their people, has made such an impression upon my heart, that I come to offer this small matter to your grace, to be applied to their relief, as your better knowledge shall see most proper: a trouble which I should not have presumed to give your grace, did not I know that such works of charity are pleasant to you; and that the better information, which in your high rank you must necessarily have, will enable you to apply it more effectually to their relief than I, in the darkness and ignorance of my humble station, possibly can. I am almost ashamed of the smallness of the sum, it is but two thousand pounds, but it is all that I have yet been able to save; though I hope to give a better account of my stewardship another time; and that I shall be found not to have buried my talent, especially if it should please the di-

vine providence to raise me to a higher station, and thereby put the means more liberally into my power.

"I most humbly beg your grace's forgiveness of this intrusion of your time. I am your grace's most humble servant." "Stay my lord," returned her grace with a look and accent softened into the most engaging affability "Pray do not go; I see you so seldom, except in the crowd, that I cannot part with you so soon. I thank you for the confidence you place in me, and shall apply your charity to the best of my judgment. Poor people! they greatly want relief, and if the invincible fortitude of the Bulgarian monarch does not extricate them soon, they will be entirely ruined. But every thing is to be hoped for, from such an hero.

"You are very good to consider the distresses of the poor people; there are few now who think of any thing but themselves; so their appetites are satisfied, they have no feeling for what others suffer. But, my lord, is there any thing that I can serve you in? You may depend upon my interest at all times." "I am much beholden to your grace," replied his lordship, elevated at such an offer, and now secure as he thought of his hopes "I am much beholden to your grace. I have had too much experience of your grace's goodness to doubt it. Nothing that I know of at present: if any thing should happen, I shall be most grateful to your grace for your kind remembrance. We are all desirous of having our power to do good enlarged."

"Yes my lord, all good men like your lordship, are. It is a duty to desire so. But have you heard any thing of the archbishop of ———, lately?" "Not very lately, please your grace." "I believe that old man will never die. He was taken with a fit yesterday, and it was thought he would expire every moment, but he has got over it, and is abroad to-day as well as he has been for many years." "In—d—e—d" "What is the matter my lord, something seems to ail you." "A—a—sudden faint—ness has—come—o—ver—me; I—mu—st beg—y—our grace's—p—ardon—, I—am y—our grace's m—ost h—h—humble servant—," with which words, he made a bad shift to crawl out, muttering to himself—"O my money, my money; O this cursed dream—my money, my money!"

Her grace looked earnestly after him for a few minutes, as if lost in thought, and then bursting into a loud laughter, "And is it so my good lord, does the wind sit that way? Then I can account for your charity—ha, ha, ha. But you are disappointed this time, and, I fear, will the next too, if you do not bid better. Two thousand for five hundred a year! Is that your conscience? But it will never do."

I was now at the summit of human grandeur, the favorite of the favorite of a mighty monarch. For curiosity tempting me to take a view of my new mistress's heart, as she sat at her toilet, I found myself established there without a rival, in the most absolute authority, every passion being subservient to my rule; even the love of power, which had, in every other instance disputed the empire with me, being here my most abject slave, and encouraged for no other reason than solely to promote my interest; the mighty spirit of the immense mass of gold, which my mistress had accumulated, having taken entire possession of her soul.

CHAPTER VI.

WHILE my late master retired, to meditate on the exposition of dreams, and to please himself, with the virtuous reflection of so single an act of charity, her grace sat down to her toilet, where I saw art triumph over the depredations of time, and create a beauty, denied by nature.

When this serious work was so far completed that she could attend to other business, one of her most favored domestics told her, that she had the very morning received an offer, from a man who kept a noted beer-house and shuffle-board, for the place of a tapster to the lord mayor, which she was sure her grace's interest would readily obtain. "Tapster!" answer'd her grace, "what is the value of that place? Reach me the list of employments, with their salaries and perquisites, out of that drawer! Let me see! Tapster to the lord mayor! aye here it is! well and pray what does he offer for it?"—"A thousand guineas, please your grace," replied her woman, "which I really think enough for it, considering every thing."—"Do you indeed! But I do not. Why, it is rated to me here, as worth five hundred pounds a year; and is that worth no more than a thousand guineas! Does the fellow value his own life, only at two years purchase?"—"Five hundred pounds a year! How can that be? The salary is no more than sixty! there must be some mistake, in your return."—"The salary! the salary signifies nothing; it is the perquisites! The perquisites are the thing! Do you think any place is valued by the salary? The perquisites of this place are very considerable. Let me see! Why he buys in all the beer and gin himself, for which he can charge what price he pleases; and then his own account is taken for the quantity that is drank. Aye indeed: there must be a mistake in my return to be sure; but not of the kind you mean. The place is rated too low; for, with such opportunities, it must be worth twice the sum;

and I shall enquire into that matter, before I dispose of the place. A thousand guineas, for such a place! I wonder at the fellow's conscience, to make such an offer!"—"All this is very true; but then there are some circumstances that must be considered on the other hand too. You know the lord mayor's year is almost ended; and then, who knows whether his successor will continue all the servants, or not? This one it certainly is most likely he will not; for as he is a known enemy to gambling, and has publicly declared, that he will put the laws in execution against all such practices, it cannot be thought, that he will permit a fellow, who has kept an house that has been so notorious for it, and where so many men have been brought to the gallows, and their families to beggary, to hold a place of such profit under him; beside, he has people of his own to provide for, who have served his father, and himself in such a manner, as to deserve his confidence and regard, so that every chance (to speak in his own way) is against this man, which is so well known, that nobody else would bid for the thing, at all; wherefore, if I may presume to speak my opinion, his offer should be immediately accepted.*

—"There may be something in what you say; but then, if it was so very precarious a place, do you think some of his customers would not inform him of it; they certainly must know it."—

"Why the very reason of my desiring your grace to close with him directly, is for fear they should tell him, as they undoubtedly would, if they suspected his intention in the least; but he conceals it from them; for the principal motive of his quitting the business he is in, and seeking this place, is because the greatest part of his customers have got deeply into his debt, which he can never expect them to pay, while he continues his business, whereas he thinks if he can get this place, it will be a good excuse for calling in his money, and then the lord mayor's power will protect him from their resentment. This is the true secret of the matter; for, if it was not on this account, he has a much better opportunity of getting money, where he is, than in any place."—

"Well then be it so, make the most you can of it; and I care not how soon the fellow is turned out after. What is the matter? what do you laugh at?"—"I beg your grace's pardon, an odd thought came in my head; but it does not signify."—"What is it? come I must know it!"—"Why, I am almost ashamed to mention it; though it is but a trifle neither, as such matters go now. Your grace knows that my husband has a place under the lord mayor. Now it just came into my head, that when his lordship comes to wait upon the king, to be knighted, it would be no bad joke, if his majesty could be prevailed on to knight my husband also."—"Ha! ha! ha! And so madam has a mind to be a

lady. Why with all my heart? There is no great matter in it, to be sure; and I see no reason why you should not have that title as well as a chandler, or shoemaker's wife. Indeed, the candidates for knighthood have run so very low of late, that a man of honor should be ashamed to accept of it. But that is no concern of mine. I got the money, and where I can do that, I care not if it was from Jack Ketch: let others look to that. Well: since you have taken a fancy to stick a fool's feather in your cap, tell your good man, when he kneels by his master, at the important ceremony, not to be too hasty to rise, and I'll take care your ambition shall be satisfied; though I do not know what we must do then. Your ladyship will never condescend to put on my shoes, or take away the bed-pan; so that I believe I must look out for another servant."—"Your grace is pleased to joke; but you are very well convinced, that I have no ambition, above your service; and shall ever be proud to perform the meanest offices about you. Indeed, in this affair, I have more respect to your grace's honor, than to myself. While I wait upon you, (and I would not give up that, to be made a countess) I am but your servant, let me be called by what title I will: but then I think it is not proper, that you should be waited on by common servants, like any other person, of your apparent rank. As you are the fountain of all honor, and nobility, you should have nobles to attend you, as well as knights, if I could have my wish. And it was this tenderness of your grace's honor that made me so particularly affected at what happened yesterday."—"Yesterday! I do not understand you!"—"What happened yesterday?"—"Your grace may remember that you were so kind some time ago as to obtain leave for me from the lord of the manor, to build a little poultry house in a corner of yonder common field. I accordingly set the masons at work, and liking the situation, thought it was no great trespass to enlarge the yard a little, and build a lodge, with a room or two where I could have my clothes washed, and drink a dish of tea, with a friend, at any time I might have a mind to be retired; but behold, after the wall of the yard was built, and the lodge raised, as high as the first story, the bailiff of the manor happened to come by, and seeing what I intended, had the insolence to fly into a passion, and saying it was an encroachment beyond the leave I had obtained, obliged the workmen to pull down every stone they had laid, though I myself, on receiving notice of it, went there, and told him it was by your grace's order, and for your own use, and acknowledged the expense you had been at; but it was all to no purpose, for he would not leave the place till his orders were executed: nor was this all; he has had the assurance also to send me word this very morning, that he would distrain the cows,

that you desired me to put to grass, in that field, if I do not directly pay for their pasture, according to the rate he is pleased to charge; which is more than I have been able to make of the milk; though by your grace's recommendation, I have had so good customers for it, so that instead of the profit I expected to make for you, of your dairy, your grace is like to be a loser."—"Insolent! unreasonable fellow! Not to be content with his own extravagant profits, without hindering every body else of coming in for the least advantage with him: but he has neither shame nor conscience, or else he would be satisfied with plundering the ponds, and selling the fish, and hiring out the grass as he does, without putting the parish to the expense of fencing in the common, to prevent the people even from walking over the grass! But, I may, some time or another, find a way to be even with him. He stands but badly in his master's favour, who despises such avarice, and would turn him out of his place directly, but that unluckily he has it, under his hand, for life; however, I shall watch every opportunity to return him the compliment; that I can assure him. Let him take such liberties, with his equals! I'll have him know, that he shall treat me with more respect."

"That is true! has your grace heard how cavalierly he behaved lately to the young lord——? I forgot his name. The great beau that made such a noise, by dangling after the gentleman's wife."—"I know whom you mean: No! I have heard nothing about him, what has been the matter?"—"Ha! ha! ha! I do not believe I shall be able to tell it, for laughing. Why, your grace must know, that the beau was walking, one morning, in a very plain dress, across the upper part of the common, where happening to meet a farmer's maid, going to drive home her cows, he entered into chat with her, and prevailed upon her to quit the path, and walk with him, into an unfrequented part of the field, where they sat down, under a clump of trees, for the sake of a little very innocent conversation, to be sure. Well, they had not been there long, when one of the under bailiffs, whom this insolent fellow keeps to watch the grass, seeing them go out of the road, followed them; and coming upon them in a very unreasonable minute, not only interrupted their conversation, but also asked the lord (whose quality he never suspected) in an imperious manner, how he dared to trample the grass, and threatened to take him and his whore before a justice, and have them directly sent to bridewell. This insult aggravated the offence of his intrusion, to such an height that the lord in a rage bade the scoundrel instantly get out of his sight, or he would break his head. Such words, from a person of his appearance, raised the insolence of

office so high, that the bailiff, without any more ado, lifted his staff, and knocked his lordship down, where he belaboured him severely, repeating the word scoundrel, between every blow, till the poor battered beau was in a most doleful plight, though he had often told him who he was, and roared out his quality, with all his might; but the enraged fellow either did not, or pretended that he did not, believe him.

"When he had beaten him as much as he thought he could, without danger of the gallows, he dragged him along to the high way, where fortunately a coach happened to come by, the owner of which knew his lordship, and took him up, ordering his servants to apprehend the bailiff; but he was too nimble for them, and made his escape: and now finding his mistake, and the danger into which he had fallen, he went directly to his master, and telling him the story, in the most favorable manner for himself, prevailed upon him to promise to stand by him; particularly as he alledged, that the affair had proceeded from his great care of his master's grass, which could never be kept, if he should be left to suffer for defending it.

"In the mean time, the poor lord was in so very bad a taking, that all the physicians and surgeons in town were gathered about him; by whose assistance he was confined to his bed, for near a week. As soon as he was permitted to speak and see his friends, he sent directly to the head bailiff, to let him know how his man had used him; but all the satisfaction he could obtain, even when he went and applied in person, was to have the fellow removed to another part of the common; nor could he obtain this, till he declared that he would make his complaint directly to the lord of the manor, if he had not some redress: It is said, he talked of challenging him, but he is one of the grand jury, of the court-leet, and therefore cannot be called to an account that way."

CHAPTER VII.

By this time the mysteries of the toilet were over, and my mistress's face finished for the day, when a person entered to her, whose appearance was far from promising such an intimacy with a lady of her rank.

The most shabby, squalid dress covered a distorted carcass, not much above four feet high, but so gross, that, laid upon his back, he would have cast a shadow nearly as long as when he stood upright. A deep olive complexion, an aquiline nose, and a mouth from ear to ear, fringed round with a greasy,

curled beard, made the beauty of his face correspond with the elegance of his figure.

This extraordinary person approached her grace, without introduction or ceremony, and entering immediately upon business, told her, "that he came to know if she meant to buy in that day, for the report raised in the alley, by their express from abroad, had given such a stroke to the funds, that they had tumbled to the ground; but would most certainly rise again the next day, as soon as the news, which had arrived that morning, should be known; which could not be kept a secret, as the people wanted something to keep up their spirits, among so many miscarriages, and divert them from making too close enquiries into the conduct of affairs."

"Why, my honest friend Aminadab!" replied her grace, "I must be directed in these matters by you. If you think there is any thing to be got, by buying in to-day, with all my heart: though I must own I cannot conceive why you should sell out, the very last week, to buy in this."

"Ah! my lady," returned Aminadab, "there is a mystery in all business, and in none greater than ours. The Bulgarian king's success last week raised people's spirits so high, that they thought the world was to be all their own, and therefore bought at any price. Now that was the time for a prudent person to sell, as I advised your grace; which we had no sooner done, than instantly comes an express, (of our own) with an account that the enemy had turned upon him in their retreat, and entirely vanquished the vanquishers."

"This news quite overthrew the spirits raised by the former, and made every one eager to sell out at any loss, for fear the enemy should get wings and fly over, to take all they had. Now as this was but a terror raised by ourselves, we take the advantage of it, and so buy in when others are selling out, twenty per cent. cheaper than we ourselves sold out last week, when the madness bent the other way, and may perhaps sell again the next, when another packet shall set things right, and bring the people back their senses. For the senses of the people of this country are as inconstant as the sea, depending entirely upon the winds that blow them news."

"But is it really possible that any people can be such fools?"
 "O, please your grace, they are only too rich! they have more money than they know what to do with; that is all."—"Then, Aminadab, we will ease them of some of the burthen. And would it not be better to conceal this news for another day; might not that make them fall still lower?"—"But, my lady, the people want the good news."—"The people may hang themselves in despair, I care not, so I get money."

"The government though."—"What is the government to me? I will get all I can, and then leave them to themselves, to sink or swim as they will; it is all one to me."—"That is true; your grace says right. A people who do not know, or, at least, will not follow their own interest, are not worth any person's care, longer than while he can make something of them. But we must reserve that stroke for another time.—This news has got into the offices, and nothing there is a secret you know. Besides, the panic was too violent to last; it begins to wear off already: in another day they would recover their senses of themselves. I think, therefore, with your grace's approbation, to buy in all I can to-day; without you had rather lay out your money in the supplies, for the Protestants of Germany."—"With all my heart, if you can make as much of it that way as in the funds: but not otherwise. I would not lose one shilling for any people under heaven!"

"Your grace has a just notion of the world, and of the value of money that governs it. Indeed, I must say, that the terms for these supplies are very unseasonable, considering how such things have been done, for some time past. It is expected that people should bring in their money, without any premium, or other advantage, than what was publicly calculated for, at the granting them. But these economists will find themselves mistaken. The world is wiser now a days, than to give up advantages which they have once gotten possession of. As to that affair, therefore, I should think it better to let it stand a little longer, till the necessity becomes more urgent, and then they will be glad to come into our terms, if it were not that the poor people may be ruined in the mean time; so that indeed I am at a loss what to advise your grace to do, in so nice an affair."

"Why let them be ruined then: it is not my fault; nor is it my business to save them; nor will I part with a shilling to do it. Besides, if they do suffer by the delay, those who gave them this supply to prevent their ruin, may give them another to repair it."—"I cannot but admire your grace's judgement in all things. You are above the foolish weakness of nature, and have the noble resolution to see your own family perish, rather than injure your own interest, to relieve them. I shall obey your grace in all things. I go now to the alley, where business will soon begin."—"Do, honest Aminadah, and fear not, though I could not procure an establishment for your whole nation, as I would have done, I certainly will for your family, and that is enough for you. Your son shall be made a BARONET at least; you have riches enough to support the title."

"Your grace is very good; our people are all satisfied of your kind intentions: but, alas, that was a severe disappointment to us, after costing us so much money. The children of the Lord weep it over in their synagogues, and the daughters of Sion lament it in their songs; but my household shall rejoice in thy favour, and the labors of my life prove my gratitude for it."

Honest Aminadab was no sooner gone, than there entered an agent, seemingly of another nature, this dealing in honors as the other did in money; but the difference between them was only in appearance, the end of both being ultimately the same.

"May it please your grace," said he, advancing with due reverence and ceremony, "I come to wait upon you about the place in the ———, that gentleman will not, indeed cannot, give one shilling more for it."—"Then let the other have it; I will not lose five pence, much less five hundred pounds, for him."—"But, please your grace, you know what grounds he has to expect it on; besides your promise, which cannot well be broken through, it was so positive."—"My promise was only conditional (in my own intention) that he should give me as much as another, and in no other sense will I keep it. As for his grounds of expectation, I regard them not: let him make the most of them where he can."—"Just as your grace pleases; I only took the liberty of speaking my own opinion, but always in submission to yours. Not but I must own I am apprehensive of this gentleman's resentment, though not immediately for myself; so much as for your grace's character, with which he may be provoked to make too free upon such an affair."—"Aye! that is liberty, your boasted English liberty, to speak disrespectfully of your superiors. But I despise whatever he can say: nor will I give up my own way for fear of his impertinence."—"Very right, your grace is very right. It were by no means fit that you should: but then it is to be considered, whether this breach of promise may not be attended with inconveniencies that may overbalance the advantage, as it may make others afraid to deal with you another time."—"I will venture that: none come to me but for their own advantage, and while they can find that, they will scarce stay away for punctilios. So let me hear no more of this, but close with the other directly."

"Will not your grace please to abate of your demand for that place in Ireland? I really fear you rate it too high." "Not a shilling. Surely I ought to know the value of things in Ireland by this time. I have had sufficient dealings there to teach me. It has been my privy purse for many years." "But what I fear is, that if your grace does not fix upon some one directly, the lord deputy may, and that would disappoint you; for this

place has ever been immediately in his gift, and it would reflect a kind of dishonour on him to give it up." "Dishonour, indeed! I am much concerned for his honour certainly; and as for his naming any one to contradict me, I believe he will be cautious how he does that. The example of his predecessor will tough him." "However, if your grace pleases, to prevent any disputes, I will wait on him, and tell him that you have a friend, whom you design to recommend." "With all my heart, you may if you will. But as to the price, I will not abate one shilling, as I said before. Do not I know that places in that country are either mere pensions, without any thing to do, or even necessity of ever going there at all; or where that cannot be dispensed with, from the nature of the place, that no learning, no abilities are requisite. If it was here, indeed, where knowledge in a profession is absolutely necessary to a place in it, there might be something in higgling about the price; but for a coward to scruple paying for being made a general, or a blockhead a judge, there can be nothing more unreasonable; and I will not hear another word about it. But what have you done about those titles, which I gave you to dispose of?" "Really I do not know what to say to your grace about them: the bent of the people does not seem to incline to honours of late." "No! I thought they were always as good as ready mone, especially with those who have more money than sense, and think it is easier to buy, than earn honour by merit. An Irish title was the constant refuse of the sons of fortune, who not being born in the rank of gentlemen, or having forfeited it by their villainies, were desirous of changing their names for sonorous titles, to hide their disgrace as it were, under an heap of honours, which in reality only make them the more exposed to the view, and consequently to the censure of the world. But I find, even that imaginary sense of honor is gone out of fashion, and the shadow is in no more request than the substance, at present. But since they are grown such a drug, even make the most you can of these; sell them to whoever will buy: I shall take no exceptions to persons."

"I shall certainly do the best I can for your grace, though they have been so oddly given away of late, that I verily believe people are ashamed of taking them, for fear of being laughed at. Rattles are given to children, but titles to old men, to divert them; to some, in reward for not doing the very worst possibly in their power; and to others, for doing nothing at all. But pray has your grace seen the old colonel yet? He got his commission yesterday; I wish he may mean your grace fairly." "Why surely you do not imagine he can have the assurance to think of playing me a trick?" "I do not positively say so; but his behaviour has been very mysterious."

Just then, a servant let her grace know, that the very colonel, of whom they were talking, desired leave to wait upon her. "I thought so," said she, "shew him up; I thought he would not dare to trifle with me."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE colonel advanced to her grace with the assurance of conscious virtue sparkling in his eye, though sharpened by a cast of indignation. 'I come,' said he, 'please your grace, to return you my thanks for your favors: I have got my commission and had the honour, just now, to kiss his majesty's hand upon it; as your recommendation was more effectual to procure me this reward than the labors of my life, which has not been undistinguished in the service, I thought it my duty to make your grace this acknowledgment, and to offer you any service in the power of an honest heart, and no bad hand in return.'—'Colonel,' replied her grace, 'I am glad it has been in my power to serve a man of your character, and I do not desire any such return.'—'I am much obliged to your grace for your good opinion,' returned he, 'which I hope I shall never forfeit. I thank God, my character will not disgrace your recommendation; nor shall you ever have reason to blush at the mention of my name: I have the honor to be your grace's most humble servant.'

'But colonel,' said the gentleman, the agent who stood by, 'though her grace has no occasion for such a return as you offer, having no quarrels to be fought, there is a return of another nature, which you should not forget, especially as you promised it too.'—'Why look you sir,' replied the colonel, 'as to that matter, it is most certain that I did, something like promise some such thing, but when I have told the whole affair honestly to her grace, I am sure she will be above demanding it.' 'Sir,' said her grace, 'I do not desire to hear any thing more, about it; and I must tell you, that you have behaved like an old knave.' 'Say an old soldier rather, madam,' replied he with some warmth, 'the other is a term I am not used to,' 'A nice distinction truly, and well worthy of a man of honor,' said the agent with a sneer, 'Have a care, sir; guard your expressions. My respect, my obligations to her grace, will make me bear any thing from her; but I must be so free as to tell you, that I have not the same sentiments for you.' 'What, are you going to make a riot in my apartments?' 'Not in the least, madam; my respect for your grace is a sufficient security from that. I would only hint it to that gentleman, that he may not always

have the protection of your grace's presence; that is all madam.' 'You are a knavish old ruffian. But I shall take care that you do not come off so.' 'As your grace pleases for that. By the laws of my country I cannot lose my commission while I do my duty, nor will my gracious master be influenced to do me wrong, though in the multiplicity of greater affairs, my services, my hardships, could not reach his eye. But as I would not bear the imputation of any crime, much more, so black ones as dishonesty or ingratitude, you must give me leave to set this affair in a just light to your grace now, especially as I may never have another opportunity of doing myself that justice.'

"Enraged almost to desperation, to find that thirty year's service, the merits of which were often written in blood, and stand recorded in these scars, were not sufficient to procure me the regular advances of my rank, without a merit of another nature, I resolved to quit the barren paths, which I had so long pursued in vain, and try those methods which I saw practised with success by others: I therefore applied myself to your grace, who seemed struck with my hardships, and promised me your favor; referring me for more particular information, to this gentleman, who would have lowered my sense of your goodness, by loading it with terms, which were not in my power to fulfil.

"Had your grace mentioned them to me yourself, I should most certainly have owned my inability; but coming from him, I looked upon them as the finesse of his own art, which it was not unjustifiable to return with a feint of mine; and therefore I gave an equiescence with his proposal; for he dares not say I made a particular or positive promise of any thing.

"If I have done wrong in this I am mistaken, and sorry for it, but still it is not within the article of war, that makes an error in judgment criminal, because it was not against an enemy; but by all the rules of war, and that is my profession, and the only one I have studied, it is allowable to oppose art to art, and try to foil the devil at his own weapons. This is what I have done; and the success of this stratagem, which has effected by a coup de main, what I had been making regular advances to so long in vain, proves the justness of my plan, and must extort your grace's approbation, when the passion raised by this gentleman's mercenary influence shall cool."

Saying this, the veteran marched off in triumph, leaving my mistress and her agent staring at each other in the strongest surprise.

Her grace found utterance first, and having no other object of her rage, turned all its violence upon her agent: "So then,"

said she, 'after all, I find the old ruffian has outwitted you, with the general promise, or no promise at all, it seems, for you did not dare to contradict him. I thought, sir, that I had cautioned you before, against this very thing, and given you positive orders to take nothing but the money. But you shall pay for your neglect; you shall make good the loss to me. As for the old ruffian, I will speak to his general, and have him broke for a cheat. Talk to me of his services; what are his services to me? But I will have him broke; his example shall terrify others from attempting to abuse me so again.'

"I wish it were proper or possible," replied her agent, as soon as want of breath made her stop, 'for your grace to have him punished for his insolence: but such a tongue as his might lay matters too open, if once set a going, for you see he is not to be over-awed by any thing. As for his commission, there is no loss in it; for it was ordered for him before I applied; though I made him think it was obtained by your interest, to try what I could bring him to. Your grace may be assured that I would not have taken any promise, had it been otherwise; and I was just going to tell you this, when his coming prevented me.' 'It may be so,' returned she, 'but I shall be better satisfied of it, before I give up your making good the loss.'

The agent was relieved from further persecution for that time, by the entrance of a messenger, who was going to Germany, and called to know if her grace had any commands for her friends there. 'None but my good wishes and prayers for their deliverance,' replied she with a deep drawn sigh, 'which are constantly offered up for them. I am sorry I am not able to send them any relief from myself; but I have nothing in my power; no places, no opportunities of getting any thing: these few pieces, taking about a dozen guineas from her pocket, where she had thrown the bishop's change of her note, 'are all, at present in my possession; give them to my dear mother, with my duty, and tell her I will send her the clothes she wrote for, as soon as possible; and assure the rest of my friends of my constant attention to their interest.'

CHAPTER IX.

I WAS, by this time, so sick of *high life*, that I was very glad of being one of the number her grace gave to the messenger, as I saw no prospect of pleasure in such a service. He had no sooner received her grace's commands, than he immediately went to the office for his dispatches, where he was sent on another errand, while they were getting ready.

This was to apprehend a poor wretch, who sold glyster pipes about the streets; but, being unable to get bread in his profession, had fallen upon a scheme, that he imagined might raise him to the notice of the world, in the light of a state criminal, and get him his hunger well satisfied, while he should be an happy prisoner, for offences which he imagined could not be attended with any bad consequences.

Big with this project, he had entered into a correspondence with some person abroad, of equal consequence with himself, and to him communicated the *secret* intelligence which he daily picked up at coffee houses, or found in the public newspapers, which his great friend was to forward to some great person, in the service of the enemy.

He had long continued this trade unnoticed, as he thought, though all his letters had been opened at the post office; but the stuff contained in them was thought below regard; so that he began to fear that his scheme would turn to no account. But now some miscarriages in public affairs alarming the resentment of the people, making it evident that the secrets of the nation were betrayed, this insignificant creature was thought of, and ordered to be taken into custody.

Though this was the thing which he had always proposed by his undertaking; to keep up the farce, he counterfeited the strongest terrors, and put on every appearance of conscious guilt, so far, that he had like to have over acted his part, and fallen a sacrifice to the law, which he only meant to elude: a just judgment on the base depravity of soul, that could descend to so iniquitous a scheme, as to trifle with his sacred duty to his country, to support an anxious, burdensome being.

For his counterfeited fears not only gave weight to the appearances, which were before so very strong against him, but also made it probable that he was guilty of more than he was at first even suspected of: this justified the prosecuting him with the utmost severity, and sacrificig him to the indignant rage of the people, who called aloud for some victim, to atone for their reproachful losses.

The criminal soon perceived his error, and would have recanted all he had said; but this was not admitted him; his own confessions had confirmed the charge against him, and he was given up to the laws; to which on the evidence of such strong appearances, though no intelligence could be proved against him, but what he shewed the public authority mentioned before for, his life was declared a forfeit.

But the contemptibility of his station and behaviour proved his safety, and mercy was extended to a wretch beneath ven-

grance, after he had served the turn, and amused the people for his day.

I did not then stay in England, to see the event of this affair, but having learned it, since my return, I thought it better to conclude the story in this place together, than to interrupt my narrative with it, at another time.

It would be doing injustice to my master, to imagine that he had profited so little, by his frequent intercourse with persons in genteel life, and particularly by her grace's late example, as to think it necessary to apply the money she had given him to any other use, than his own: accordingly, when he was setting out, he gave me to his wife, for the support of his family, in his absence.

But this spirited lady had a politer way of thinking, than to obey his directions, or deny herself any of the genteel pleasures of life, for the sake of such a mean, domestic duty, as the care of a family. As soon therefore, as his back was turned, she put on her hat and cardinal, and posted away to one of her most intimate acquaintances, a lady, who kept a chandler's shop, in the neighborhood, to advise with her, about settling a party, at her house, for the next evening.

An affair of this importance required delition; accordingly after tea, they retired into the bed chamber, the parlor they sat in being open to the shop, so that they were liable to be overheard by every one who should come in, and there, over a comfortable glass of *right Holland's*, fixed upon the company, and settled the ceremonial, and fare of the entertainment. This great business being dispatched, my mistress returned home, and getting a gentleman, who lodged in her house, at the expense of the state, to write cards for her, sent them by her husband's assistant to the company, to invite them to play a game at cards, and spend the next evening with her, and then proceeded to put every thing in order for their reception.

Her great anxiety, and the preparation she made, raised by curiosity not a little, to see the vanity and vice of the higher ranks of life mimicked, by such a set; but I was disappointed at that time, being paid away to a tavern keeper, next morning, for wine, and brandy, for the occasion.

My new master was a striking instance of the inconsistency of life, and the hypocrisy of the human heart: he had for many years kept one of the most notorious brothel taverns, in the town; but not content with this public insult to the laws, in defiance of every sense of shame, he at the same time professed himself a reformer of religion; and while the grossest scenes of riot and debauchery were carrying on openly, in his house, was chaunting hymns in a conventicle, and groaning in

spirit, for the wickedness of the times, with a face as meagre and mortified, as the picture of famine. I see you wonder at such a palpable contradiction, but that proceeds from ignorance of life every view of which shews instances as gross as this; the gaming devotee, the pensioned patriot, and the drunken priest, being equally offensive to common sense and reason.—As for my master, he had as powerful motives for his conduct, as the greatest of them all. Poverty made him, in his early youth, turn pandar, to such an house, as he now kept, when the demure sanctity of his looks screened him so effectually from suspicion, that he was able to make acquaintances in families, and accomplish seductions, which no other of his trade dared to attempt. By these means, he soon acquired a sum of money, sufficient to set up this house for himself; when his character immediately brought him into business that in a little time made his fortune; but, for this success, he was chiefly indebted to a master-stroke of superior genius; for having observed in the mystery of his profession, that there is no private sinner, like a public saint, as soon as he thus rose above the drudgery of business, and from porter became master of a tavern, he associated himself with a set of reformers, who went preaching up and down the town, at whose meetings, he had an opportunity of finding out new faces, for his best customers, and making acquaintances with the leaders, who, observing his discretion, soon admitted him into their mystery, and made his house the scene of their secret meetings, to settle their business, laugh at the follies they lived by, and practise the vices, which they preached against. Such success might be thought to have satisfied his avarice, but the habit has taken such hold of him that he cannot desist, and he now does, from inclination, what was at first the effect of necessity.

I should not have dwelt so long, upon his character, but that it serves to explain the ways of the world, and prove the folly of an opinion, generally received among men, that they can change their course of life, whenever they please; and as soon as their end is answered, and they have heaped up a fortune, by the iniquity of a profession, quit it at once, and live virtuously, upon the earnings of vice.

The evening after I came into his possession, the high-priest of the conventicle called upon him, to spend an hour in spiritual conversation. After examining into his progress in grace, and the increase of his faith, and assurance of election (for such is the power of custom, and the pleasure of cheating the world, that they practise the art, even upon each other) he told him that he had a most particular occasion, for his most private room

this evening. 'For,' said he, shaking him by the hand, 'my friend, as I have found by experience, that the only way to foil the devil, is at his own weapons, I have appointed Momus the ballad-singer, whose attack upon me has made such a noise, to meet me here this evening, and make up the affair, over a glass of wine.'—'In truth,' answered my master, a good deal surprised, 'your reverence's meekness, and patience, must needs be very great; or you could not bear to mention him, in any degree of christian charity, and benevolence, after so outrageous and gross an attack, as he has made upon you, without the least personal provocation; for what was it to him, what you said or did to the rest of the world, his morals or religion were in no danger. But you were born to be an example to the age, and a shining light, to guide the steps of the faithful.'

"A truce with this canting now, my friend," replied the doctor, 'and let us talk a few words, like men of the world. Your proved fidelity and prudence making me not scruple to reveal the whole mystery of the ministry to you. I will let you into the secret of this affair. You must know then, that I have, for some time, perceived the humour of the people begin to waver greatly, and the fervency of their devotion to cool, in spite of all I could do to keep it up, by preaching, fasting, prayer, and lamentation, by crying up my own piety, and the wonderful effect of my spiritual labors; it was necessary, therefore to have recourse to some new expedient, to prevent their falling off entirely, and accordingly I pitched upon this, which has exceeded my expectations; for instead of making my people ashamed of coming to me, it has piqued their pride, and now they resolve to shew, that they scorn as much to be laughed, as preached, out of their own way. This my friend, is the way of the world, which, since we cannot in reality mend, we must only strive to make the best of. If I could carry on my business, without this assistance, I most certainly would never have entered into such a confederacy, any more than you would keep a brothel, and entertain whores and rogues, if you could make equal profit, by any other company."

"I am much obliged to your reverence," returned my master, 'for putting me in any degree of comparison with yourself; but it is too great an honor. I act in a low sphere; but I still have the pleasure to think, that, even in my poor way, I contribute something towards your great work; as there could not be so many converts to resort to you for spiritual comfort, if there were no places of this kind to encourage vice and debauchery. You see, sir, that I enter into the spirit of your design, and deserve your confidence, by this return of mine. There are secrets in all professions, and as you have entered into a league

with your professed enemy, that you may be able to play into each other's hands, so I, notwithstanding the probity of my profession, have a private understanding with all the ladies of pleasure who resort to this house, who in return for their being brought into good company, never fail to enhance expense, and countenance every imposition, of false measures, false charges, and a thousand others, by which a prudent man turns the folly of the world, to his own advantage. As to this confederacy between you and the ballad-singer, I own I never suspected the least of it; and indeed I still am at a loss, to think how you could bear the personal reflections especially which he has thrown upon you. What was the misfortune of your form to him, that he should call you doctor Hunch-Back?"—"Why that is true enough," answered the doctor, "in that he exceeded my directions; and to call him to account for it, is part of the business of this appointment. Every thing else was settled between us. We have hitherto met at our friend Mrs. Brimstone's, who first negotiated the affair between us, and consented to take her share of the ridicule, to advance the common cause. She will be here to night too, so that we shall have an agreeable set. I believe I hear him just come in. I directed him to enquire for number one; do you shew him into the private room, and when the coast is clear, I'll join you."

CHAPTER X.

THE person my master was sent to meet, had something so uncommon in his appearance, as instantly struck my attention. Every passion of the human heart, was printed in his face so strongly, that he could at pleasure display it in all its force, while his every look and gesture turned some vice, or folly, into ridicule. "You enquire for number one, sir?" said my master, bowing with the profoundest respect, "I do, sir," answered the other, returning his bow, assuming his look, and imitating his voice, in a manner that would have extorted laughter from despair, "enquire for number one."

Though my master was no stranger to his talents, which he had often seen him display at the expense of others, this personal application of them to himself, threw him into such confusion, that in spite of his long practised assurance, a blush broke feebly through his unimpassioned lifeless face, and he had scarce power to shew him into the room. The ballad singer seeing that he had him at command, would not pursue his advantage any farther, at that time, for fear of frightening him away, but putting on the exact countenance, and mimicking

the voice and manner of the doctor, 'I am come, my friend and brother in the Lord,' said he, 'to enquire into thy spiritual estate, to give thee ghostly advice, and commune with thee, for a short space, for our mutual edification.'—The surprise and manner of this address had such an effect upon my master, that he could not refrain bursting into laughter; and immediately recovered from the confusion, into which the ridicule of himself had thrown him.

They were scarce seated, when the doctor entered, and addressing himself to the stranger, 'I am glad to see you, sir,' said he, taking him by the hand, 'and heartily congratulate you, on your success! you see I was not mistaken in my judgment! I knew what would take with the taste of the public! There is nothing pleases them so much, as a little profaneness, and ridicule of religion; a fling at the clergy never fails to raise a laugh.'—'I acknowledge your judgment, sir,' answered the other, raising up his shoulders, rolling his eyes, and echoing every cadence of the doctor's voice, 'and thank you for your congratulation; but I must beg leave to differ in opinion with you, as to the cause of my success; for I have never had the least fling at the clergy, nor been guilty of profaneness, or ridiculing religion, in my ballad; the abuse of religion, by hypocrisy, and making the profession of virtue a sanction for the practice of vice, were the objects of my satire, and the reception it has met with from the public, shews that the people have a proper sense of such vices.'

The doctor was so struck at the reflection of himself, when the other began to speak, that he started, in the utmost astonishment, and was unable to interrupt him, till he had finished his discourse, which else he certainly would have done, while my master stood almost convulsed with laughter. But his triumph was not long; for the ballad singer turning short upon him, and instantaneously assuming his cadaverous appearance, and bowing in the same manner, 'And you, sir,' continued he, addressing himself to him, 'must have had ample experience, in the course of your business, that the taste of the town inclines quite another way, the most profligate in practice being the most pious in profession.'

This sudden transition from the doctor restored him to his spirits, who in his turn could not avoid pointing with his finger, and laughing most immoderately at the silly look of my master, though he was not quite so much abashed as he had been before.

As soon as the doctor could speak—'However I may doubt your opinion,' said he to the ballad singer, 'I acknowledge the irresistible force of your power of ridicule, and beg a cessation

of them, for a moment, till we talk of our business. I will not dispute about the cause of your success, but I think you need not have fallen upon my person. My professions and practice surely were enough, with your own exaggerations! Why then need you give me the opprobrious nick name of Hunch-back, which has spread so, that I shall never get rid of it? The very children haunt me with it, as I go along the streets."

"Good heavens," answered the other, "how subject are the wisest men to the weakness of vanity! I should have thought that you were long since proof, to any thing the world could say of you, or you would have given up your trade before now.—As to my calling you this name, you must know, that the whole success of our scheme depended upon it; for if I had not turned the ridicule against your person, the taste of the public is so gross, that I might have laughed alone, at your opinions. But what success have you had? Do you find your flock gather upon this attack on their shepherd?"—"Why pretty well," replied the doctor, "pretty well. They seem to shew a proper sense of it. As for me, I appear affected at it, in a very extraordinary manner, that is solely upon your account; and to convince them and all the world of the strength of my charity, I design to morrow to offer up prayers, for your conversion, as being in a dangerous state of salvation, and then, on the merit of that, to propose a subscription, for the relief of two or three families, whom your example has led into ruin."—"Bravo, doctor," interrupted the other, "tell me of profaneness again! But I hope I am to have a share in the subscription; as it is to be proposed, on my account; at least, you will let me assist in the distribution of it."—"Take care, my friend!" returned the doctor, "another word of that kind, and I declare off the connection. I will have no body pry into my conduct, or interfere with my business! I did not ask any part of your gains, though you got so much in every company, where you sang your ballad; nor did I speak a word in behalf of the other poor ballad singers, you picked up about the streets, and set to sing for you, though the wretches complained that you starved them."

The ballad singer perceiving that he had touched upon a tender point, thought proper to wave it, as he did not choose to break off so advantageous a connection. "As to that," said he, "I did but jest! I never interfere with any man's matters. But that's true! I have bad news to tell you! The clerk of the parish sent me word yesterday, that, understanding I sung my ballad to a psalm tune, he let me know, that I must change my note directly, or he would order the beadle to whip me out of the parish, if ever I presumed to sing there again; and to mend the

matter, at the same time ordered me to make use of an old, blackguard tune, which he sent me, the vulgar stupidity of which blunts the edge of the ridicule, which was never turned against the tune itself, but solely against the prostitution of it; which can never be so effectually attacked, as by repeating the manner, exactly, in which it is sung. But where is our friend Brimstone? I expected to have met her here.'

Just as he said this, my master was called out, where he found a venerable matron, supported by two chairmen, who enquiring in a feeble voice, for number one; he directly shewed her in to the company.

CHAPTER XI.

THE matron, whom my master was handing into his friends, displayed one of those figures, which lose by the most forcible description. Her face, though broken by debauchery and disease, preserved the remains of a most pleasing sweetness and beauty; but her body was bloated by intemperance almost out of every resemblance of the human form. She wore on her head a richly laced cap, over which, half a dozen fine handkerchiefs almost concealed a piece of greasy flannel. Her gown, of the richest silk, flowed loosely round her, under a velvet cloak, lined with ermine; while her legs and feet, swoln out of all shape, and too tender to bear any ligature, were wrapt up in flannels.

My master received this amiable creature from the chairmen, and stooping under as much as he was able to bear, of the burthen of her body, assisted her to limp into the room. The contrast between her and the shabby skeleton of her supporter was so strikingly ridiculous, that the moment they appeared, Momus burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, and turning to the doctor, (who was not much less affected, though practice had given him such a mastery over the muscles of his face, that they never betrayed the passions of his heart;) 'Behold,' said he, 'the blessed fruit of thy ministry, and rejoice! See how the spirit assaileth the flesh, to struggle with the infirmities of nature.'—And then, waddling up to her, in her own gait, 'Dear mother,' addressing himself to her, 'give me your other arm; rest a little part of your weight, an hundred, or two, upon me! Come! Let me help you into that great chair!'—'Oh! oh! oh! my poor bones!' exclaimed she, 'how you pull me along: you will tear me to pieces! Oh! oh!'—'Never fear, mother! Never fear that!' answered he, 'Crazy as your carcass is, it will stick a little longer together! your friends are not

ready for you yet.'——'Go! go! you're a wicked creature, a profane wretch.'——'Dear doctor! I thought I should never see you more! I had a sad night of it; a most sad one indeed. But the spirit comforted me. Oh, if it were not for the comforts of the spirit, there would be no bearing the pains of this life! I was purely when you left me! Your pious conversation had comforted my heart; and the sober bottle we cracked together, raised my spirits so, that I forgot all my pains. But I was not to be so happy long! Satan envied me, and threw temptation in my way!——This wicked imp, and half a dozen of his roaring companions came in upon me, just as you went out, at the back door. Well! to be sure they have a great deal to answer for! I was just beginning to read the pious exhortation, you left me; when ~~at~~ they came, snatched the book out of my hand, and, calling for the ladies, insisted on my sitting with them; so, as you know I always loved innocent mirth, I could not refuse. But alas! I paid dearly for it this morning! My poor bones! and then my head! my poor head is quite gone, quite gone! I can bear nothing!——Oh, what a difference there is between spending an evening in edifying conversation over a sober bottle, with a pious friend or two, and these ranting riotous scenes; though they behaved so like gentlemen, and were so good company, that there was no leaving them! But it is all folly! all vanity! I am resolved I will leave it off! I will not follow it much longer, I am resolved! I'll wean myself from this world, and think of nothing but a new life!——I hope the baronet won't use poor Betsey ill! I did not like his refusing to taste the ratifia! I should be ruined if any thing ailed her! she is more enquired for than all the ladies in the house.—And, my Lord! he is sweet company. But it is a pity he is so wicked! He was going to burn my book of devout exercises; and then, that profane song of yours! what need he sing that! I wonder what pleasure people can find in profaneness! Where there is any enjoyment, it is another thing; but this is being wicked, for wickedness sake. It is a great pity, for he is a very generous, fine gentleman. He gave Poll ten guineas this morning! He's very fond of Poll; he always has her, when Betsey is engaged! Oh! oh! shall I ever get rid of these pains! when shall I be happy in heaven?——

While she was running on thus, the doctor was busied in writing a letter, to himself, as from a family in distress, from whom he intended to solicit a subscription the next day, from his congregation; and my master was laying glasses on the table, and drawing the corks out of several bottles, so that Momus alone attended to her, by the significant archness of whose look, it was easily to perceive, that he was laying up

fund for future entertainment, and would not have interrupted her, had she continued her discourse never so long; but the doctor's turning to the bottle, put a stop to her, and introduced a general conversation.

"I am sorry my friend," said he, addressing himself to her, 'to hear you complain so! I left you in a blessed temperature of mind and body, last night; but I much fear, that the intemperance you mentioned must have equally disturbed both. The most pious man knoweth not what folly he uttereth, when he is full of wine! A little is good, and rejoiceth the heart, but too much mareth the understanding, and letteth loose the secrets of the wise.'——'As for that there, dear doctor, never fear me! Since the blessed hour of my call, I have never disclosed one secret about the matter; I never mentioned a word of it.—— But, doctor, what did you do with the young lady whom you would see home, last night? I would not refuse you, to be sure; but I hope you have not put any more idle notions in her head! she is very young; and likely to do a great deal of business, therefore her call need not come this great while. It will be time enough for some years hence. I had a great deal of trouble to bring her to; and now if you have spoiled her, I shall have all the work to do over again. Nobody knows the trouble and expense I am at, for the service of the public; nobody knows. If it was not for me, gentlemen would be forced to take up with common servant maids, and such low lived creatures; but I provide gentlewomen for them; ladies of birth and education! and yet I am not regarded. Nobody thanks me. This is poor encouragement, to serve the public, very poor indeed. But virtue is its own reward. That's my comfort. I do the best I can; and if I do not receive a proper return, that is not my fault. Let the world answer for it. I do my part; and so my mind is at ease.'

"That you do!" said Momus, while he stopped to drink, 'that you do. Your diligence never slackens. Come, fill your glass. Here's to the reformation of manners, a work that we all labour in alike.'——'By your leave, good sir,' interrupted the doctor, with a look and tone of offended importance, 'not all alike I presume! I believe you will allow, that there is some difference between your profession and mine at least.'——'So then,' answered Momus, 'you are returning to the old point. I thought I had said enough to you on that head before. Difference! aye! that there is indeed; but perhaps you are not sensible in whose favor that difference is! I sing a song that makes people laugh, and put vice and folly out of countenance, by shewing them in a ridiculous light, and this only for a trifling pittance of that money which they devote to mere pleasure;

but you, by drawing horrors, that never existed out of your own imagination, and preaching up doctrines, impossible to practise, frighten your poor deluded followers, out of every enjoyment of their lives, and pillage them of the money that should support their families and pay their debts, under pretence of imaginary charities. This is the difference between us.'——'Good lack! good lack!' interrupted the sage matron, 'how can people be such fools, as to fall out thus about nothing. What signifies it where the difference lies, so you both can do your business? It is just the same thing, as if my landlord here, and I, should enter into a dispute about the reputation of our houses. I thought I had made you both promise never to mention this matter any more. Come, doctor, here is prosperity to all our business, without any such foolish distinctions.'

The judgment of this mediation was too plain to admit of any dispute. The competitors filled their glasses, and shaking hands very cordially, drank their friend's toast. 'Well, now there is some pleasure in this,' continued she, 'things are like to go on well, when all parties agree; but when some people fall out——you know the rest of the saying——but, my friend Momus, I have news for you. That story of the young lady, that you put in your ballad, has answered just as I said. The world thought it would blow me up; but I knew better! I never had a greater run of company in my life, than to enquire into that affair; and they all of the right sort, your secret, grave, old, rich culls, just fit to do business with. At first, I always deny it with the strongest oaths and imprecations, and rail at you for inventing such a scandalous story; but afterwards, as if I am put off my guard, by the liquor, I seem to place a confidence in their professions of secrecy and friendship, and, with many tears, own the whole; that is, so far as to having the lady in my power; and then the consequence is, that they all intreat me to let them see her, (that is singly; for such chaps always come alone,) when, such is the pleasure in debauching virtue, that beside making me an handsome present for my kindness, they leave no temptation untried to prevail upon the lady, whom they generally take to themselves upon a genteel settlement; by which means I have got a pretty sum, and have besides had an opportunity for providing for near a dozen of my women, who were too well known, upon the town, to do any thing in the public way; for this kind of customers have too great a regard for their characters, ever to mix in company, that might undeceive them! So you see, doctor, that I do not forget your instructions of doing all the good in my power; and sure it is no small matter to rescue so many poor women, who were no longer capable of genteel livelihood for themselves

from want and misery, and getting them a comfortable settlement for life, so that they have nothing to do now, but attend to you, and make their peace with heaven.—Come! here's my service to you, my friend Momus; and if you can think of any other story of me, that can serve your turn, and get off another ballad, never spare me! I'll forgive you.'——'And so will I too,' added the doctor, 'though he should call me a worse name than hunch back! Let them laugh who win. While our railing at each other in public, answers our own ends, we were fools to drop it; as to the deceit in it, it is a virtue; for sure it is better to live thus in friendship and charity with all mankind, than to be the real enemies we seem; and so, sir, here's my hearty service to you. And let us pursue our works, in concert, without any more of these broils. So let us drink about, for an hour or two; for I must leave you early, being obliged to write an exhortation for the old dutchess, which I must carry her early in the morning, when she designs to visit her cousin, the colonel, who is under sentence of death in Newgate, for murder; not that I think either that, or her preaching, will have any effect upon him; but she will try; and I do not care to disoblige her, as she is not only a good subscriber on all occasions, but also a credit to our conventicle, which would never have risen into such esteem with the people, if some persons of quality had not brought it into fashion.'——'Why, ay! to be sure there is a great deal in that,' added the matron, 'fashion is a powerful thing. If it was not for that, I could never do the business I do. But since the nobility have made it a fashion to marry their mistresses, there is no great difficulty in bringing a private gentleman's daughter into our way of life, as it gives her the only chance she can possibly have, of making her fortune and becoming a lady; for as to the example of those few, who married ladies of virtue, for mere love, it was too old fashioned and romantic, to have influence. But that's true, doctor, I forgot to mention something to you last night, that has given me great concern! How could you be so indiscreet, as to accompany that highwayman, to Tyburn, the other day? And then to take his hand, and kiss it, before all the people! Fie! it turns my stomach to think of it! I do not know how you can expect any lady will ever let you kiss her lips after such a filthy action. Besides, it is a scandal to all your congregation, that you should appear so familiar with such low lived creatures, and seems a kind of encouragement to their crimes. If you had heard what remarks two or three ladies, who called at my house yesterday evening, made upon it, I am sure you would never do it again.'——'Go to, woman! Go to!' answered the doctor, with a contemptuous look, 'take the beam out of thine

own eye, before you find fault with the mote in your neighbor's: What highwayman's crimes are equal to your's. The greatest danger of scandal that I ever ran, has been, in condescending to keep company with you. In that indeed I may be said, with too great an appearance of truth, to encourage the basest crimes.'

The matron, who with all her prudence, was of a warm temper, could not brook such an insult as this, even from her spiritual guide, but catching up her glass, in the madness of her rage, which had deprived her of the power of utterance, she flung it at his head with all her strength, and with such unlucky aim, that it felled him to the ground.——'Woman!' sputtered she, as soon as her passion permitted her to articulate a word, 'woman! call your women about you! I scorn your words, you canting hypocritical, vicious wretch! who, under the appearance of sanctity and religion, cheat the credulous fools that mind you: you condescend to keep me company! you! a creature who would never have been taken notice of had it not been for me. Did not I point you out the persons, proper for you to work upon! was it not I that introduced you to those very people of quality, that now make you give yourself such airs? Were they not most of them my acquaintance, and even indebted to me, for the rank they now enjoy? I'll make you know yourself, you scoundrel! I will—I'll expose you to the world, and then see who will go to your conventicle, or subscribe to your sham charities! I'll make you know how to treat your superiors for the future.'

While the enraged matron thus vented her fury, Momus and my master raised the doctor from the ground, in a pickle not to be described. The glass had been thrown with such strength, that had not his scull been of a comfortable thickness, his labors would have been at an end; however, it had made such a gash on his temple, that he was in a moment in a gore of blood. The sight of this terrified them all! The matron fainted (or pretended to faint) away, my master ran to get a napkin to wipe off the blood, while Momus supported the doctor in his chair; but the first sight of the wound convincing him that it was not dangerous, he resolved to increase the accident, to that diversion, which was the great pursuit of his life.

"Good heaven!" said he in a low voice, as if speaking to himself, and with all the appearance of distress, 'what will become of us all! We shall all be ruined by this unfortunate affair, even if we escape the death which inevitably awaits the wretched murderers.'——'O sir!' said the doctor, alarmed almost to despair; 'what do you think? Am I a dead man? Speak, I conjure you, give me some hopes!'——Alas, my friend! I wish I could; but I must not flatter a man in your condition! If you

have any concerns in this life to settle, delay not a moment. This horrid fracture in your skull threatens immediate death. Heavens! stooping, and pretending to look earnestly, 'how his brain works!'——'O what shall I do!' exclaimed the terrified wretch, 'I cannot die! I am not fit to die! Oh! that I had followed some honest trade, and never taken to this of preaching! I might then have earned honest bread as my forefathers did, and escaped this miserable death, and the more horrid fate that awaits me! What shall I do? What will become of me? How can I even pray to that god, whom I have so often provoked by my hypocrisy and crimes.'

My master, by this time, had wiped the wound, and seeing, that though it bled so violently from the number of little vessels that are in that part, there was no fracture of the skull, and therefore no danger in it——'Be comforted sir,' said he, 'you have time enough to prepare yourself for death! I'll insure you from any danger this time!'——'How, my dearest, best friend!' said the doctor, catching his hand, and kissing it in ecstasy, 'is my life safe? Is not the wound mortal?'——'Mortal! no! nor even dangerous; if the surgeons do make it so! give me leave to put a plaister to it, which I always have in readiness, in the house, in case of accidents, as gentlemen often quarrel, for their women, in their liquor; and I'll engage that it shall give you no farther trouble. Many a guinea have I got by it, for, when any such things happen, I immediately slip on a full trim'd suit, a bag wig, and a sword, which a surgeon once pawned to me for a debt of two guineas, and up I go, do the job, take my fee, and come away as good a surgeon as the best! never fear, sir, I'll ensure you from this scratch.'

The consolation which this news gave the doctor; is not to be expressed. He hugged and kissed his dear friend, till he made him in as bloody a condition as himself; and in the joy of his heart, even forgave the cause of his fears, who had all this time counterfeited a swoon. But Momus, who saw his sport with the doctor thus cut short, soon brought her to herself; for taking a glass of brandy, as if to hold to her nose, in the affected awkwardness of his hurry and confusion, he spilled it upon her face, and then taking a bit of burnt paper, to try what that would do, he designedly neglected to blow it out, and so, holding it to her nose, set the brandy he had spilled upon her face, on fire. This instantly awoke her from her swoon. She shrieked out, when he, in the same affected confusion, flung the basin of bloody water, in which the doctor's wound had been washed, full in her face. This indeed quenched the flame, but then it put her in a condition as dirty and disagreeable as that of my master or the doctor; the consequence

of which was, that the doctor could not refrain from bursting out a laughing. 'Well, my friend,' said he, taking her by the hand, 'it is but just that you should share in the effects of your own rashness. But let there be no more of it. We have both been in fault perhaps; and so let us only be more cautious for the future. What I have suffered was done by design, and like to have been attended with dreadful consequences; your's is all accidental and trifling.'

While the doctor was thus piously making peace, my master was cleaning himself and setting the room to rights. Momus assisted the matron to cram half a dozen napkins down her bosom, to dry the water he had bathed her with, which he performed with so well, acted an anxiety and care, that even she was deceived, and attributed all that had happened to her, to his confusion; and being glad to get so well off an affair that might have ended so much worse, she complied with the doctor's advances to a general reconciliation, and so all things were restored to their former harmony. As the doctor's wounds, by a ready presence of mind, he found a way to make an advantage of it, by telling next day, that he had received it from some of Momus's gang, who had attempted to assassinate him, in revenge of the contempt into which he had brought their master.

Matters being thus happily settled, the rest of the night was devoted to mirth, and concluded with a song in character by each of the company, of which Momus's was the most humorous, my master's the grossest, the matron's the loosest, and the doctor's the most daringly profane; perhaps to obliterate the remembrance of his late religious qualms. After this, the company broke up, when the doctor, having occasion for some money early in the morning, borrowed a couple of pieces from my master, among which I was, who lent them very unwillingly, and then retired to his bar maid; for he had two genteel notions of life to marry.

CHAPTER XI.

THOUGH it was late when the company broke up, my new master, who never neglected business for pleasure, did not forget the exhortation which he was to carry to her grace the next morning; not that he was at the trouble of composing it himself: his time was too precious to be employed so: the more important cares of his flock, which he could not entrust to any other; as visiting his great proselytes, receiving and distributing charity, and his incessant exercise of all the sacerdotal

functions, scarce allowed him time for the necessary refreshments of nature, and would have been deemed an intolerable burthen, had they been enjoined by the most express revelation of the divine will, though ambition, avarice, and the pleasure of deceit, made him undertake them voluntarily; but still, to secure to himself every degree of religious merit, he kept a most laborious author, a degraded clergyman, in constant employment, whose works he passed upon the public for his own, when he did not immediately direct them against myself.

To this learned person, therefore, he went, upon the present occasion, and having him called from a night cellar, where he was holding forth, on religion and politics, to a company of chairmen, he told him his business, and desired him to set about it directly. 'Good god, sir,' said the author, 'this is a very unseasonable time to set me upon such a work. From five this morning, till eleven at night, have I labored incessantly; and now when I have just stepped out to take a little necessary refreshment'——'Refreshment!' answered my master, 'tell me not of refreshment, or any thing else! either do my business or say you will not! I can get enough to undertake it, and gladly too, for less than I give you.'——'That is impossible,' replied the author, 'if they are to live by it! I am sure what you give me scarce keeps me from starving!'——'Starving!' returned my master, 'so it appears indeed! when you this moment have been indulging in riot and luxury, and smell so strong of spirituous liquors, that it is offensive to sobriety to stand near you. I wonder you are not ashamed to be guilty of such intemperance! it ill becomes a man of morality and religion.'——'Sir, sir!' interrupted the author, provoked beyond his patience, 'have some regard to truth and reason in what you say; and look at home, before you accuse me of intemperance! I labored the whole day without any other refreshment, or sustenance, than a mouthful of bread and cheese, and a draught of small beer; and now have had only a quartern of gin, in a pint of warm porter, to wash down half a pound of sausages, and you call this intemperance. If I may judge by appearances, you have not spent your evening on such fare.'——'How I have spent my evening,' returned my master, who, in spite of himself felt the justice of the reproach, 'is nothing to the purpose! I am answerable for what I do. But this manner of talking signifies nothing! I must have this exhortation by eight in the morning. It will not take you up much time. You are sufficiently practised in the style: the matter is of little consequence. If you choose to drink a glass of wine, here is half a crown, which I make you a present of. I would by no means have you stinted of any thing that is proper.'——'Sir,'

answered the author, 'I am much obliged to you! I will take care that it shall be ready at the time. You are sensible, that I never think much of any labor to serve you. I have finished all the pamphlets you ordered, about the ballad singer's affair. Here they are. This is a letter from you, to him, that lays him flat. I have quoted half the fathers of the church against him. These are two letters to you, upon the subject, one as from a great lord, the other from a reverend divine, setting forth the great benefits of your ministry, and exposing the profaneness and immorality of his ballad.—This here is a silly vindication of his ballad, in a letter to the author, from one of his ranting companions; and this last is an address to the public against all those irreligious, and profane amusements of ballads, balls, routs, &c. This is a master piece. You see it is, as from myself, if you do not choose to own it; though I do not know but it may have more weight with your enemies, if it appears as from another. So you see I have worked hard to day; and now I believe we are done with Mr. Momus, and his ballad.'—'Why! pretty well, I believe,' said my master, 'but hold I have a thought just come into my head. You must know that the parson of the parish has sent for that reprobate, that Momus, and ordered him to alter the tune of his ballad, as it happened to have several of the same notes with the psalm tunes. Now as this is known, what do you think of writing a letter to me, as from the parson, setting forth what he has done, and insinuating that it was the direction of the squire; this will clinch the affair. After such an authority no one will dare to say a word in its behalf: beside, it will have a good look to be taken notice of by such people.'—'That is true,' answered the author, 'it will so; and the parson's notice shall not be thrown away! I'll do it, to morrow morning; as I send you the exhortation.'—My master then wished him a good night, and left him to return to his company; while he himself went directly home, to prepare for the duties of the next day.

He had scarce slept off his debauch, when he was called to chaunt his matin song; after which he did not fail to display the wound in his temple, the occasion of which he promised to unfold to his congregation in the evening. This he did to raise a curiosity that should gather his whole flock, to hear so extraordinary affair, as he designed to propose a subscription, when their passions should be warmed by such an horrid attempt upon their pastor.

By the time he had finished this work of the day, the exhortation was brought him from the author, with which he went directly to her grace. He found her (unfashionably early as it was for a person of her rank to be even up) dressed and wait-

ing for him. 'Please your grace,' said he, 'here is the exhortation your grace desired of me; and I pray heaven it may prove successful. I am afraid I have made your grace wait, but I came the moment I had finished the first duties of the morning. If your grace pleases I will do myself the honor to accompany your grace. Perhaps my personal exhortation and prayer may have more effect. My ministry has often been blessed with astonishing success.'—'I am sensible of that, doctor,' answered her grace, 'but this unhappy man is of such a strange temper, that I apprehend he might be guilty of some act of rashness, that might be dangerous to your person, if you were to go to him without his consent; and that I am much afraid I shall hardly obtain. No longer ago than yesterday, near as the dreadful hour of his execution approaches, did I find him engaged at cards with his jailer; and when I expostulated with him on the danger of trifling away his few remaining moments in so idle a manner, (for I was apprehensive of exasperating him if I spoke with greater severity,) he only smiled, and answered me with a passage out of some play,'—'Yes, please your grace,' replied my master with a lifted eye, and a deep fetched groan, 'cards and plays are the bane of half the world, religion is quite neglected for them. The great work of reformation will never be completed till they are utterly abolished. As your grace does not think it meet that I should visit this unfortunate gentleman in person, I am obedient to your grace's pleasure; however I will offer up my prayers for him; and my spirit shall assist your grace's pious endeavors. Not that I fear what man can do unto me; the angel of the lord watcheth over me, or the stroke that made this wound had given me rest from my labors.

He then displayed the mark of mother Brimstone's rage, and told her grace so moving and circumstantial a story of his having been way-laid, and attacked by some of Momus's riotous companions, that she implicitly believed him, and sympathised in his sufferings. He then gave her the exhortation, which she was to deliver to her unfortunate cousin, and seeing her uneasy at being obliged to wait till the bank should be open, to get money to distribute among the poor wretches in the prison, he accommodated her grace with change for a twenty pound note, having, as he told her grace, just so much about him, which he was carrying to relieve a poor industrious family in great distress.

It was a great pleasure to me that I changed my service, upon this occasion, as I was heartily sick of my master; though from a view I took of his heart, I saw that I had not been witness to half the mystery of his iniquity.

My new mistress went directly to the prison, to her cousin, where she had a sufficient opportunity for the exertion of her charity among his unhappy fellow prisoners, while she waited for his rising, which was not till very late, as he had sat up the whole night before, at his beloved diversion of card-playing. When at length she got admittance to him, her reception was far from being worthy of the trouble she had taken, and the piety of her intentions. He asked her if she had procured him a pardon, and when she answered in the negative, and assured him that all such hopes were vain, he then told her, that he would dispense with the continuance of her visit, and the repetition of any more, and in a manner forced her away, scarce permitting her to mention the motive of her coming, or to enforce the exhortation of my late master, which she with difficulty persuaded him to take, though, from the manner of his receiving it, there was little probability of his ever taking the trouble to read it.

My mistress, for I had the good fortune to remain in her possession, was so so shocked at this insensibility, that she went directly home, and sought relief from the solid comforts of religion, pouring out her heart in unfeigned prayer, for the conversation of him, and every other object of the divine displeasure; for, though a misguided fervency of devotion had made her, in some measure, a dupe to the hypocritical zeal of my late master, nothing could lead her from the purest paths of true piety and virtue; nor did she suffer the extravagance of his pretended enthusiasm so far to blind her better judgment, as to make her avoid the entertainments frequented by persons of her sex and rank.

CHAPTER XII.

She, accordingly, went that afternoon to the house of a lady of quality, where a great concourse of the best company usually assembled on set invitations to spend the evening, at the favorite amusement of cards. The lady of the house was one of those children of fortune, who rise by the means that ruin thousands. In her early youth she had sacrificed her virtue to vanity, and yielded to the loose desires of the nobleman she was now married to, over whom her humble obliging temper, and particularly her complaisant blindness to his other amours, gained her such an ascendancy, that in a fit of uncommon fondness he made her his wife. But the method he took to secure himself the ease and conveniences he enjoyed with her, directly overturned them; for her humility and complaisance were all feign-

ed; and, the necessity of counterfeiting them being thus removed, she immediately assumed all the importance of her new character, and exerted the usual prerogatives of it in as high a manner, as if she had never been in a meaner rank. The infatuated husband soon saw his error; but it was too late to remedy it; he therefore is forced to compound with her, for the indulgence he desires, by submitting to let her gratify her passion for vain pomp and expensive ceremony, under the parade of which she strives to hide her obscure original, as she attempts to obliterate the remembrance of her fall from virtue by a most rigid profession of religion. Thus, her routs are the most splendid, and difficult of access, of any in the town, no person being invited but those of the first rank, nor any, who are not invited, being admitted, be their rank what it will; and she professes herself a strict follower of my late master, in his most extravagant opinions where they do not immediately interfere with her own vanity.

It is impossible to convey any notion to you of such a scene as this, to which my mistress carried me, it is so different from that sphere in which you have acted. Suppose you see several hundred people of both sexes, and of every age, dressed in all the profusion and elegance of expense, and wearing dissipation and happiness in their looks, assembled together to spend the evening, in mutual entertainment; This is the face of the picture; but turn the reverse and you shall behold a set of people, who have sacrificed their real interest, and the peace of their minds, to the gratification of this, and such like pleasures, and who come purely to prey upon each other: accordingly the whole is one continued scene of sharpening, mutual distrust, envy, slander, and malevolence; the very few, who like my mistress, come there for mere amusement, and are untainted with such vices, being forced to submit in seeming acquiescence to the torrent they are not able to stem.

In the course of the evening, it was my misfortune often to change my service; but as the stay I made with my momentary possessors, was so very short, I shall wave giving any account of them, especially as the two most remarkable of the set, and under whom all the rest, who launch out of the common road of life, are in a great measure characterised, have been sufficiently described on a former occasion, though the histories I read in many of their hearts would afford much entertainment; and hasten to the lady in whose possession I left the company.

My new mistress was the young widow of a person of great distinction, who in the decline of life had overlooked the disparity of age and rank, and married her, solely to gratify his passion for her beauty. During the few years he lived, his care

and prudence kept her indiscretion within bounds; but as soon as that guard was removed, she plunged into all the fashionable follies of the times, with a keenness that courted ruin.

But though she eagerly followed every pursuit, that bore the name of pleasure, vanity was the ruling passion of her heart.—The rank, into which her husband had lifted her, placed her upon a level, in point of society, with the best company, and the fortune he left her was sufficient to support that rank. But still, as there were many degrees above her, her heart pined for precedency, and she could not enjoy the honors she had, while she was obliged to give place to so many.

She had formed a variety of schemes to obtain this desired object, but still without success. At length, the very night I came into her possession, an accident suggested one to her, which she immediately put in execution, with the most sanguine hopes. There had been a nobleman of the first rank, in the company, the weakness of whose reason had obliged his friends to put him under the government of a person, to whose fidelity they thought they could entrust so important a charge. As private misfortunes are always an agreeable topic for public conversation, an elderly lady, who was acquainted with this nobleman's family, entertained the company, with several melancholy instances of his weakness. My mistress regarded this, only as it was meant, as common chat, till some time after, the nobleman happening to fix his eye, with some earnestness upon her, a sudden thought darted into her mind, that, if she could any way bring about a marriage with him, all her dear views of ambition would be gratified at once.

The moment this thought took possession of her head, it drove out every other. She lost deal! she revoked! she missed reckoning her honors! In short, she was so absent, that she was obliged to pretend a violent head ach, and leave the company. As soon as she got home, she went to bed, where she spent the night in forming numberless projects, for accomplishing her design; but still the account which the old lady had given of the vigilance of the person, to whose care the nobleman was entrusted, disconcerted them all. At length, she resolved to attempt corrupting his fidelity, as she could not expect to elude his vigilance. She had often heard that the greatest honesty was not proof against a proper price; and her knowledge of her own heart did not contradict that opinion. However, not to be too rash, nor betray her design, before she had some prospect of success, she resolved to sound the person, before she applied directly to him.

Accordingly, as soon as she got up, she wrote him an anonymous letter, letting him know, that a person had a certain

affair to propose to him, for his concurrence in which he should receive immediately a thousand guineas, and an annuity of five hundred pounds a year, beside several other considerable advantages; and that what he was desired to do could be effected, without any possible loss, or danger to himself. This letter she sent by the penny post, and desired the answer might be returned in the same manner, under a feigned direction, to the house of a person in whom she confided.

Such a letter necessarily surprized the gentleman to whom it was sent. Though the greatness of the offer convinced him, that some extraordinary piece of villainy was designed, yet, as he knew himself above temptation, he resolved to humour the scheme, till he should discover the whole of it, for the honest revenge of punishing a base attempt to seduce him into dishonesty. Accordingly he answered the letter directly, in such terms as he imagined would tempt the writer to be more explicit, expressing his readiness to embrace any proposal, that should be so advantageous, when he should be satisfied, that the person who made it, was able to perform it, and worthy of his confidence.

This bait took, as he desired. My mistress, whose eager imagination was too full of the desired object, to let her use any caution, thought her work done, and immediately wrote him another letter, to which she signed her name, and in it explained her whole scheme of marrying the nobleman, by his assistance, enforcing her former offer, by a promise of continuing him in the agency of the estate, or, rather indeed, of sharing it with him, and desiring to meet him that evening, either at her house, or any other place he pleased, to confer upon proper means, for bringing it into immediate execution.

The gentleman was not a moment at a loss how to act, on such an occasion: he immediately waited upon the nobleman, who was next heir to his unhappy charge, and, shewing both the letters, desired his directions how to act. Though this nobleman was struck with horror at a piece of villainy that did such dishonor to the sex, respect for the memory of the worthy man, whose name she bore, would not permit him to expose her to public insult; however, to prevent her making the like attempt elsewhere, he resolved to shock her, by a personal detection. Accordingly, he made the gentleman write her word, that it was improper for him to be seen going to her house, but that if she pleased he would meet her, at eight that evening, at a certain tavern, where she should enquire for him, by the name of Mr. Trueman. Such a prospect of immediate success made her blind to every appearance of deceit or danger, and accord-

ngly she prepared to attend the appointment, with the most sanguine expectation.

But his lordship had prepared a reception for her which she never suspected. A little before the time, he went to the tavern with the gentleman, and fixing upon a room in which there was a closet large enough for him and another nobleman, whom he took with him, left word, that if any lady should enquire for Mr. Trueman, she should be told that he was above, alone, and the gentleman called down to her. As they judged, her impatience brought her rather before the time, when her imagined confederate shewing her up into the room, and placing her so, that every word she said might be heard, in the closet, he entered into a conversation with her, on the subject of their meeting, in which he led her to repeat her whole proposal, and, by starting difficulties, to enforce it with every iniquitous argument in her power.

As soon as his lordship thought she had said enough, he issued from his concealment, and, looking her full in the face, calmly thanked her for the care she was taking to preserve the noble family of his relation, which she had whimsically given, as one of the reasons of her desiring this marriage. It is impossible to describe her situation at the sight of this nobleman; whom she well knew, as well as his interest in defeating her design. Astonishment, shame, and confusion, struck her motionless and dumb. She just was able to turn her eye to her betrayer, and then fell in a swoon upon the floor. Such distress naturally softened the resentment of the generous nobleman, to whom she had designed such an injury: he assisted to raise her from the ground, and having with difficulty brought her to herself, instead of aggravating her distress by reproaches, mildly advised her to desist from such unjustifiable schemes, and promised her, that he would take no notice of what had happened, if he found that her future conduct merited such tenderness.

This treatment had the wished effect. That false spirit, which would have borne her up against any severity, sunk before such unexpected delicacy and compassion. She melted into a flood of tears; and, unable to utter a word, fell upon her knees, and kissed the hand of the nobleman, in a rapture not to be expressed; who immediately raised her from the ground, and telling her, that he imagined it must be disagreeable to her to stay there any longer, ordered a chair, and handed her to it himself, with the utmost politeness and respect.

Her situation, when she got home, was truly pitiable. The assurance of her late hopes doubled the distress of her disappointment, and the fear of shame made the thought of her guilt

intolerable. She cursed her own folly, the perfidy of her betrayer, and all the ways of faithless man; and, in the agony of her grief, resolved to leave this detested town next morning, and bury herself, forever, from the world, in her country seat.

This resolution she held in till next morning, when she actually set out for the country; but I have reason to believe it did not hold very long, as I have frequently seen her since, in all public places, as gay and unconcerned as ever. As for me, I was given to her coachman, to pay the farrier, who took care of her horses; but he thought it more necessary to give me, in payment of a debt of his own to a man, who kept a beer house, who gave me to an attorney, to defend him against a prosecution for entertaining a gang of street robbers, and buying their booty. By the attorney I was given, in the course of business, to a knight of the post, whose evidence was to acquit the publican. From this conscientious person, as he was on his way to a country assizes, where the lives of many depended on his good nature, I was taken by an highwayman, who lost me that evening to a nobleman at an horse race.

CHAPTER XIII.

In the three or four last changes of my service, there was nothing remarkable. The progression was natural, and the events common: but I must own I was a good deal surprised at several occurrences in my present station, which were, in the proper course of things, so strange and unaccountable, that the most whimsical devil could never have thought of them, without information.

The gentleman who had acquired me so easily on the road, and brought me to the meeting, was a native of a neighboring nation, who, on the credit of his skill in the mysterious science of chance, supported by a good stock of assurance and personal courage, had come over to make his fortune, in which design he had really so far succeeded, that he had lived, for several years, in the highest life, and maintained the appearance of the estate he talked of in his own country, by the sole force of his genius, the fertility of which was not confined to one resource; but, when fortune frowned upon his labors at play, was always ready to redress the effects of her malice, by the method in which I came into his possession.

The roads had been bad that morning, which kept him a little later than usual, so that the company were at the post, when he joined them. By their noise and appearance as we rode up to them, I took them for a crowd of their own servants;

their dress being exactly the undress uniform of that party colored tribe; and every voice being exerted with the same vehemence, and in the like style of oaths and imprecations, with which those gentry receive them, at the door of a play house or palace, so that I scarce knew how to believe my senses, when I recognized the faces of several persons of the most elevated station, and particularly, most of those among whom I had spent the evening, I described to you, at the club, on my first coming to this part of the world.

As soon as the betts were made, and the noise began to subside a little, my master pressed through the mob of pick pockets, bubbles, lords, and jockies, and came up to the post, just as they were preparing to start, when calling to one of the grooms, 'Well, my lord,' said he; 'Well, Jack,' replied the other, 'where have you been all day?' This was all the discourse they had time for, the horses going off, that moment: but, on the strength of this, my master backed his lordship deeply.

It is impossible to describe to you, who have never seen any thing of the kind, a scene of such confusion as the field was during the running, the whole mob, high and low, riding headlong from place to place, and driving against each other, without any respect to rank, or regard to safety, and roaring out their betts, and shouting for joy, at every vicissitude in the running. At length the heat was ended, but so contrary to my master's expectation, that he lost, to a noble duke, who was in the secret, not only all the fruits of his morning's campaign, but a large sum besides, more than he was able to pay him.

This was a severe stroke. He rode directly up to the post, and addressing the same groom, just as he come out of the scales; 'S blood, my lord,' said he, 'how could you fling me so? I am quite broke up: his grace has touched me for five hundred, and the devil of the thing is, that I have been so torn down by a bad run of late, that I am quite out of cash, and have not a shilling to pay him.'—'How could this be?' replied the groom, 'did I not give you the word? but you are such a careless son of a bitch.'—'The word with a vengeance,' answered my master, 'you returned me well, but I have found it very ill.'—'Aye, I guessed it was so,' added the groom, 'you were ignorant that we were smoaked, and found it necessary to change the lay. Where the devil were you all this morning? taking a ride, I suppose: you will never leave off, till these rides bring you to a ride in a cart to Tyburn: but keep out of his grace's way till the horses start, and we will bring you home, I will engage. He thinks he has all the secret, but he is mistaken this bout, and shall pay for his entrance before we admit him to be one of us.—This discourse passed as they were walk-

ing together to a booth, where the groom was to rub, and settle the next heat.

You are surprised at this familiarity, between my master and the groom. When he first addressed him by the title of my lord, I own I thought it no more than cant, which, in the freedom of this intercourse, where lords and lacquies are upon a level, is common: but what was my astonishment at a nearer view, to see that he really was the thing he was called, and that a laudable ambition of excelling in even the meanest art, had induced him, and many others of his rank, who were riding against him, to take the place of their servants in this fatiguing and dangerous employment, ennobling, by this condescension, the most abject and vile offices, with the honors earned by the merit and virtues of their ancestors! Strange ambition, at a time when the interest and glory of their country called for their assistance.

As soon as the noble groom and my master were alone; 'Now Jack, what think you of my little *stun orse*?' says his lordship. 'You must know that I have *measured the foot* of them all, in this heat, and find that I have the *heels* by a *distance* at least; but the weights are above my *trim*. However, we have a remedy for that; look at this cap, (taking one out of a chest, in which his running dress had been brought to the ground,) this is a *leaden skull*, and weigns above two *stun*; put this on your head, the thickness of your own skull will prevent its giving you the head ach: aye, it fits you very well. Now I will wear this to the post, and, just before we start, complain that my cap is too wide, and borrow your's to ride in, and then when I alight at the scales, after the heat is over, I will pull off your's, as if to wipe my face, and give it to you to hold, who can return me this, to weigh in; and as I wear the same trusses, stuffed with handkerchiefs, in which I carried the weight last heat, they will never suspect us.—Ha, Jack, what say you to this! match me this, among all your *Hibernian* tricks, if you can. Go your way: double with his grace, and lay all you can, I'll go with you; but be sure to meet me at the post before, and at the scales after the heat, and not to blow the business, by being in too great an hurry."

I see you wonder how his lordship should put such confidence in my master, as he seemed to know him so well; but the truth was, my master's character for courage was so well established, that it bore him through things every day of his life, unconvicted at least, if not unsuspected, for which a more timorous villain would have been pilloried: and this made the other think him the safest person to entrust with the execution of such a scheme, as no one would dare to attempt

examining the cap, or preventing his reaching it to his lordship.——The finesse succeeded; his lordship beat every tail hollow; and my master not only cleared with his grace, but also won considerably for himself, and his confederate beside. Things were carried on in the same genteel manner for the remainder of the meeting, at which there was a vast concourse of the best company, the weather being very delicate the turf, in choice order, and the sport very fine, and so fair, that the knowing ones were all taken in; and to make the pleasure complete, though the crowd was so great, there was no unlucky accident happened, except to two of the noble grooms, one of whom was borne down in the crossing, by the superior strength of a servant, who rode against him, and slipped his shoulder; and the other broke his neck, by his horse's falling in the running.

It was on a sporting bett, on one of the bye matches, that I was lost that evening, to the nobleman, as I said, in whose possession I happened to remain to the end of the meeting. The next morning, after my new master's return to London, he went to pay his court to the heir of the crown, who was then at one of his country seats.

CHAPTER XIV.

SOME public occasion had brought a concourse more than usual, in those retirements, to pay their duty to the prince that morning. As my master was one of the last who came, as soon as his devoirs were ended, some of the company accidentally asked him, what had kept him so late; on which, with an easy air of pleasantry, he answered aloud, that he had been detained by a very whimsical affair: 'a certain nobleman,' said he, 'went into company last night, so immensely drunk, that having set into play and lost five thousand pounds, he quite forgot it this morning, and refused to pay the money, till some person of honor, who was unconcerned in the matter, should vouch his having lost it fairly; on which it was referred to me, and sorry I am, that I was qualified to give it against him.'——'How, my lord, by being a person of honor?' says the gentlemen he spoke to,—'No,' replied my master, with a significant smile, 'not so neither, but by being unconcerned in winning it.'——And then turning short to another, 'but have you heard the news, my lord?' said he, 'Mr.—— caught his wife yesterday taking a serious walk in Kensington gardens, with the gentleman whom we all know he forbade her keeping company with, some time ago.'——A smile of general ap-

probation encouraged him so much, that he concluded with saying, 'he wished he had himself been the happy delinquent so taken, as he doubted not but the bravest bishop on the bench would, were he to speak his mind honestly.'

The prince had heard him without interruption; but as soon as he had ended, turning to a nobleman who stood near him, 'there can be no greater insult,' said he, with a determined look and solemn accent, 'to a person who is appointed to put the laws of a country in execution, than for any one to boast of a breach of those, in his presence. For my part, if I am ever called by providence to that station, it is my invariable resolution, that no man, how exalted soever in rank, who lives in open violation of any law, human or divine, shall ever hold employment under me, or receive countenance from me.'

This rebuke damped my master's spirits, as it struck a reverential awe into all present. He hung down his head, and in a few moments withdrew, quite abashed. But he soon recovered, and to silence the jest of his companions, and shew that he was not to be brow beat out of his own way, he made one with them to spend the evening at a brothel tavern, where he gave me to a pimp, who gave me to a whore, who gave me to a bully, who gave me to pawn broker, who gave me to a beau, who gave me to a tavern keeper, who paid me into the bank; from whence I was sent, in the change of a note, to the first minister of state.

The notion I had hitherto entertained of human politics made me enter into this service with reluctance; but my prejudice was soon removed. My new master was just coming from his closet when I was delivered to him: he stopped to count the money, then putting it into his purse, and turning to a clerk, who followed him with a huge bag of papers in his hand, ——— 'I must have all these finished against morning,' said he, 'that I may be able to read them over, before they are signed. I know they are a great many, but the business requires dispatch; and diligence and method overcome the greatest difficulties.' ——— Saying this, he went into his drawing room, which was filled with several of the most eminent members of the community, who came, some to consult, some to advise, (for he refused not the advice of the meanest) and all to congratulate him on the success of his measures.—When the business and formality of this scene were over, the company withdrew all but one gentleman, who desired some private conversation with my master. As soon as they were alone, 'I have done myself the honor to wait upon you this morning,' said the gentleman, 'to inform you, that there is a vacancy in my borough, and to know whom you would have me return; for, as I see that all

your measures are evidently calculated for the good of your country, I am determined to support you."

"I am much obliged to your good opinion," answered my master, "but I am resolved never to interfere in matters of this nature, nor to attempt influencing the election or vote of any person, by any other means than reason: all therefore that I have to ask is, that you will return an honest man; while he approves of my conduct he will certainly support me, and no longer do I wish to be supported."

"What, sir!" replied the gentlemen in astonishment, "not desire to have your friends returned! Why, sir, is it possible that you can be a stranger to the intrigues that are forming against you, by a faction, who, when they had reduced the state to a mere wreck, like a cowardly, mutinous crew, flew in the face of their master, took the boat, and made their escape to shore; and now when you have not only brought her safe into harbor, but also fitted her out for another voyage, with every prospect of success, are caballing to undermine and turn you away from the helm: not that they even pretend to arraign your conduct or skill, but just that they may have the pillaging the fruits of your labors. As this, sir, is notoriously the case, you must excuse the warmth of my honest zeal when I tell you, that I think you must be guilty of very strange, very blameable remissness, if you neglect any possible method of disappointing their pernicious designs."

"My friend," returned my master, "I am too sensible of the truth of all you say, but hope there is no necessity for my having recourse to methods which my soul disapproves. Without the assistance of any such did I (to pursue your mode of speech) first point out to our master, and the rest of the ships company, the errors in their steering, the rocks they were ready to run upon, and the way to avoid them. Without any such did I take the helm in that dangerous time, when they fled from the wreck, and work'd her out of the breakers they left her among, and without any such will I support my place at the helm, or resign it; for, in my opinion, no end can justify improper means."

"Shall I own to you, my friend, that your offer gives me pain. Do not mistake me: I am sincerely obliged to you for that good opinion which dictated it to your honest heart; but the truth is, that any member of the community's having the power of making such an offer proves such a degeneracy in our constitution, as threatens it overthrow in the end. A parliament should be a representative of the people; but how can it be said to be that, if the people are not at liberty to choose whom they please to represent them; beside, such a manner of nominating dis-

appoints the end, as well as it destroys the essence of a parliament, as it is too probable that the nominator shall stipulate conditions with his member, that may not only take away the power of his voting according to the dictates of his judgment and conscience, but also enjoin such as may be directly opposite to both, and injurious, if not destructive, to that country which he thus nominally represents. A parliament therefore to be free should be freely chosen, no man having it in his power to do more than give his own vote; and such a parliament, to keep up to the excellence of its nature in its first institution, should not continue longer than one session, but a new one be called as often as the occasions of the state should require it, once in every year at least, for so often does the interest of a nation demand, that its guardians should meet. Such a parliament, sensible of the shortness of the duration, and nature of the tenure of their power, would take care never to act against the interest of their constituents; or, if human frailty should err, their time would be too short to establish the evil, and, as it would be impossible for them to be chosen again, the next parliament would remedy the mischief.—Such should a British parliament be; such I hope it will be. It is every honest Briton's duty to hope so; and not only that, but to endeavor to make it so; nor shall any act of mine ever seem to countenance a practice, that contradicts this principle. By speaking and acting in strict conformity to the dictates of my judgment and conscience, have I hitherto succeeded, contrary to the apprehensions of many, beyond the expectations of all; and the same means and none other will I ever pursue.'——'Heaven bless your pious intentions,' said the gentleman, taking his hand and kissing it in a rapture, tears of joy running down his face, 'heaven will bless them: happy sovereign in such a servant; happy Britain in such a guardian.'—Saying this, he took his leave of my master, who went directly to wait upon his.

CHAPTER XV.

THE first view of this august person struck me with a reverence, which I had never felt for man, before. Man may be deceived in the looks of man; but we see through all disguise, and read the real character, in the heart. Honest, benevolent, and humane, the social virtues brightened the royal, in his breast.—'Sire,' said my master, addressing him, with the most respectful sincerity, 'here are the dispatches which you ordered me to draw up yesterday: since I had the honor of your com-

mands then, I have received some farther intelligence, that confirms the justice of your resolutions. Disappointed, but not deterred by the repulse which they justly met with from you, those people have the confidence to make a new attempt, and think to obtain by menaces what was refused to their intreaties: but the event will convince them that it is more difficult to a generous mind to deny the suppliant, than repulse the insolent. Strong in the natural strength of your dominions, and stronger in the love of your people, you are able to assert your own cause, against all the powers of the world, on that element, which nature has pointed out; for the scene of your triumphs; nor will you permit any other to interfere with you, on it. All you require is a neutrality, where you are entitled to assistance. This shews your confidence in your own strength, and your contempt of them. But even this contempt will not overlook any disrespect to yourself, and partiality to your enemies. Let them either behave themselves as friends, or profess themselves foes.—This choice is indifferent to you. As to their complaints, their own unjust actions are the cause of them, and, when this is removed, they will cease of course. Till then to seek a remission of the punishment, and still persist in the crime, is an insult upon justice and mercy; and for their menaces, they are beneath the notice of an answer.”

“Be it so,” replied the reverend monarch, the indignation of his honest heart flashing from his eyes, ‘be it so: you speak the sentiments of my soul.’—Then turning to a favoured subject, who stood near him, ‘It is a pleasure to me to transact business, with this man,’ continued he, ‘he makes me understand him, and does not perplex my soul, with a vain maze of timorous wiles, but speaks and acts with open honesty and boldness.’—The honor of this testimony warmed the heart of my master with a joy, that over paid his labors, and added new fire to the assiduity of his soul. As soon as he went home, he found a person waiting for him whom he had appointed to meet him on an affair of the greatest importance.—‘I have sent for you, my friend,’ said my master, ‘on an occasion, which, I am sensible, will give joy to your heart. You are to command a separate body of the troops, which have been sent to prosecute this necessary and just war in America. I need not put myself, nor you, to the pain of repeating the causes of the shameful inactivity, to give it no severer name, by which this war has been drawn into such a length; you know, and will avoid them. You will not wear out opportunity, in making unnecessary preparations for improbable occasions; you will not damp the ardour of your soldiers by delay, nor prolong a burthensome war, to enrich yourself, with the spoils of your coun-

try. You are young, active, and brave: such a commander only do good soldiers want, to lead them to victory. You have no senior, no superior here, to restrain the efforts of your spirit, by timid caution: at the same time, that your judgment will supply the place of experience, and prevent your falling into the misfortunes, which self sufficient, brutal rashness, has made so fatal to others. Your instructions are comprised in a few words.—Make the best use your judgment shall direct you, of the forces entrusted to your command, to defend the property, and avenge the wrongs of your fellow subjects; and to vindicate the honor of this abused nation.—I know whom I speak to, and therefore I say no more: proceed, my friend, my soldier; answer my expectations, and you will fulfil the wishes of your country.’—Saying thus, he embraced him tenderly, and as he went with him to the door, happening to look into the street, he saw a number of disabled soldiers, who had placed themselves before his window, to solicit relief for their miseries.—‘O, my friend,’ continued he, grasping his hand, ‘behold those victims of the unjust ambition of that enemy, against whom you go; and let the sight add the wings of an eagle to your haste, to tear down a power, which has been thus fatal to so many of your brave countrymen, to prevent any more from suffering the like evils, from the same cause. The man who does not use to the best advantage, the means intrusted to him by his country, to destroy its enemies, is guilty of all the evils, which those enemies may afterwards do to his country.—Shall I beg a favor of my friend? Distribute this money,’ giving him an handful of guineas, ‘among those men, as from yourself. If it is not enough to give each a guinea, I will be your debtor for what is wanting; if it is more, keep the residue in your hands, to apply to the same use on the first occasion you meet. This much will relieve their real wants, and more might only tempt them to excess. The invidiousness of my station makes it improper for me to do even an act of virtue, which may be mistaken for ostensation. Adieu, my friend, heaven guard you in the day of battle, and guide your sword to victory.”

I here quitted the service of this great man, the instances of whose conduct, which I have given, make any farther character of him unnecessary.

The regard, with which the minister had addressed himself to my present master, raised my curiosity to take an immediate view of his heart, as I knew not but that I might leave his possession directly: but my fears were agreeably disappointed; for the number of guineas, given to him by my master, exceeding

that of the objects to whom we were to be distributed, it fell to my lot to remain a little longer with him.

The honour of his new command, and the confidence with which it was entrusted to him, warmed his heart with the most exalted joy. He executed his charitable commission, and then went directly home, where, bending his knee, to his beloved mother, and kissing her hand in rapture, 'O, madam,' said he, congratulate your happy son. My prayers at length are heard, and I am blessed with an opportunity of proving to the world my attachment to the service, my ardour for the glory of my country. I am honoured with a separate command, in America, where heaven fires my soul with an assurance, that I shall have the happiness of crushing the injurious power of our enemies, in the very place where it first attacked my country; where it has too long triumphed in its wrongs."

"Heaven bless my son," replied the matron, as soon as a gush of tears of joy and tenderness permitted her to speak. "Heaven guard my son, and bless his pious hopes. Let me only live to see him return with the honour of having done his duty, and I shall die contented. But why do I say this, as if my heart felt a doubt for him; my son will never fail to do his duty; he will never fall from the paths of honour, however dangerous, nor seek to color over with specious arguments the loss of his honour. He will not make his mother ashamed of having borne him, nor bring her grey hairs with disgrace and sorrow to the grave. I know the instructions which have formed his youth, I know the principles of his heart, I know my own blood better. —But, O my son! remember also, that prudence distinguishes true courage from rashness; that your country has now a peculiar interest in your life, and that you betray its trust, if you lose it by any unnecessary boldness. Remember your aged mother, who hangs weeping over ~~her~~ grave, till you return. Remember your —"

"O, my mother! no more! recal not ideas, which my present situation requires me to forget. Fear not, your son will not be a disgrace to the ~~honest~~ race from which he is sprung. He will do his duty as a soldier, and as a man sensible of the obligations of reason and religion. Whether I shall ever have the happiness of kissing this hand again, is only known to heaven; but it is in my power to promise that the name of your son shall never raise a blush in the face of his mother, nor his actions require the palliation of excuse from his friends. If life is to be short, let it be well filled: one day of glory is better than an age of idleness, or dishonour. Adieu, my mother; your blessing is a shield to the head, a support to the soul of your son; one tender parting more, and then my heart must be resigned

to other cares."—"Heaven bless! heaven guard my son!" and then, as he went from her, "O glory, what a tribute dost thou exact from wretched mortals!"

My master paused a moment to wipe away the pious tear, which filial duty owed to such a parting, and then hastened to another scene of equal tenderness.

Mutual merit had improved the instinctive liking of youth, between my master and a young lady, whose elevated rank and large fortune were her least recommendations, into the strongest attachment of real love. As reason could make no objection on either side, parental approbation gave its sanction to their happy choice, and had encouraged virgin timidity to appoint the day, that was to seal their bliss. Hard task upon a favoured lover to communicate to the chosen of his soul the order, which was to damp rising expectation, by this delay; and tear him from the instant hope of that happiness, which he had been so long suing for. But honor, and the service of his country, demanded this fiery trial, to prepare him for that height of glory, to which his soul aspired.

CHAPTER XVI.

As soon as he had recovered from the softness, into which his mother's tenderness had melted him, he went directly to his mistress. She received him with the freedom proper, in their present situation, but soon perceived an alteration in his countenance, that shewed her his heart was not at ease. This alarmed her tender fears: "What," said she, looking earnestly at him, "can make a troubled gloom overcast that face, where hope and happiness have, for some time, brightened every smile. Can any thing have happened to disturb the prospect so pleasing to us! Can you feel a grief that you think me unworthy, or unable to share with you! it must be so: that faint, that labored smile betrays the sickness of your heart."

"O dearest wish of that heart," replied he, taking her hand, and kissing it in ecstasy, "how shall I merit such perfection! It is impossible: I am unworthy: but let my soul thank heaven for blessing it, with this opportunity, of rising nearer to a level with your virtues; a hope that will soften the severity of absence, and make the delay of happiness seem shorter."

"What canst thou mean?" said she, a jealous doubt alarming her delicacy,—"Delay!—I understand thee not.—I urge not."—"Mistake not, O my love, the inconsistencies which anguish extorts from my bleeding heart.—How can I

say it!—Our happiness is delayed,—delayed but to be more exalted—honor, the service of my country call.—‘And am I to be left?’—‘But for a time, a little time, the pain of which shall be overpaid, by the joy of meeting, never to part again.—O spare my heart, restrain those tears; I am not worthy, I am not proof to such a trial.—The interest, the glory of my country demand my service; and my gracious master has honored me with a station, in which my endeavors may be effectual, to accomplish his commands—nay, must be effectual, where love urges duty, where you are the inestimable reward.’—‘If that reward is all you seek, why do you fly from it? My fortune is amply sufficient. Quit then the dangerous paths of ambition, and let us retire, and seek true happiness in content.’—‘O spare my struggling heart; what can I, shall I do. The trial is too great for human fortitude. Assist me, glory! help, O my country! support me through this conflict, and I shall triumph over every other difficulty and danger. I go, my love, but to deserve thee.’—‘Go! go! and heaven guide and guard your steps!’ waving her hand, and turning from him to hide her tears, ‘I shall no longer struggle with the sacred impulse, that leads you on to glory.’—Then turning to him, ‘but remember how you leave me. Think what I feel, till you return.’ ‘What I must be, should—’—The horror of this thought made her unable to say more: he flew into her arms, and mingling his tears with her’s, as her head reclined upon his bosom, in the tenderness of a chaste embrace, ‘This is too much,’ said he, ‘this is too much!—I never can repay this excess of goodness.’—Then breaking from her arms, in a kind of enthusiasm.—‘Heaven gives my soul,’ continued he, ‘this foretaste of happiness, as an earnest of success; I go to certain victory; the prayers of angels must prevail.’—Saying these words, he rushed out of the room, leaving her half dead with grief. Nor was he in a much happier state: the thought of parting from her damping the ardor, that had enabled him to give that proof of his resolution, and obliging nature to pay the tribute of a flood of tears to such a sacrifice.

But glory and the interest of his country soon dissipated this cloud; and his mind, freed from the dread of such painful scenes of tenderness, resumed its wonted vigor, and entered upon the cares of his undertaking, with the most indefatigable assiduity. But I continued not in his possession to see the effects of these cares; such objects as I was designed for, occurred too frequently, to the first of whom it fell to my lot to be given. I told you, that I took a view of his heart. Never was honor more firmly established on the principles of virtue,

than there. To select any one instance would be injustice to the rest. All was uniformly great and good.

My next master was one of the pillars of military glory, who had contributed a leg, an arm, and the scalp of his head, to raise the trophies of the French, in America. Though he was destitute of almost every comfort, which nature really stands in need of, his first care, on the acquisition of such a treasure, as I was to him, was to gratify the artificial wants of luxury. He went directly to a gin shop, where he changed me for a quartern of that liquid fire; the taste of which was too pleasing for his palate, and the warmth too comfortable to his heart, for him to be satisfied with so little. Quartern followed quartern, till every sense was intoxicated, and he fell dead drunk on the floor, when his good natured host had him kindly laid to sleep off his debauch, on the next dunghill, first taking care to prevent his fellow inhabitants of the streets from robbing him of the rest of his treasure, by picking his pocket of it himself.—The scenes I saw in this service, were all of the same kind, but I was soon relieved from the pain of them, my master giving me as a present to an officer of the customs, that very night.—By this faithful steward of the public, I was next morning given to the factor to a gang of smugglers, to be laid out for him in lace, in Flanders, whither he was just going, on the affairs of his profession. With this industrious trader, I went as far as Harwich, where, while they waited for the tide, he lost me at a game of cribbage, to a person who was going over with him.

My new master was honest Aminadab, her grace's agent, whom I have mentioned to you before. As soon as they had done playing, my master took a walk upon the beach with a person, who strongly resembled him, and whom I found to be his son. 'I wish,' said the father, 'that we were safe at our journey's end; for, though I have planned matters so well, that I think there can be no danger, the immense consequence at stake must make me anxious.'——'I do not understand you,' replied the son, 'I thought this was but such a journey as I have often known you take, and that you were going no farther than Holland, on some business of her grace's.'——'She thinks so indeed,' returned the father, 'nor would I have her think otherwise as yet: but I do not design ever to see her face more. I am now, my son, arrived at the height of my wishes, being possessed of wealth, beyond my most sanguine hopes. For you must know, that having gained the confidence of this woman, by many services, I at length suggested it to her, that the best way for her to make the most profit of the great wealth she has amassed, would be to send it to Holland,

by some trusty person, who should bring it over again from thence to save appearances, and subscribe it here, in some fictitious name, to the supplies given for the defence of Germany, now that her's and the intrigues of some other great person's, had baffled the schemes of economy, which the managers had attempted in vain to establish, and obliged them to come into our own terms.—She took the hint, for it was a most plausible one, and immediately insisted that I should negotiate the affair for her, giving me one hundred thousand pounds for that purpose.

“This was what I wanted, and had been always scheming for, having ever remitted my money, as fast as I could make any, into Holland, that I might be able to seize such an happy opportunity as this at a moment's warning.”—“But you cannot think, father, of staying in Holland. You will be immediately pursued thither.”—In Holland, fool! no, nor in the smoke of Europe at all! I design to set out for Africa, without a moment's loss; and hope to be far enough out of her reach, or that of any christian power, before she can suspect any thing of my flight. And it will heighten the pleasure of my success, to think, that, while I am sailing to a land of circumcision, she will sit in anxious expectation of my return.”

“But, father, is not it injustice to deceive her confidence, and rob her of so great a sum of money?”

“Injustice, fool! injustice to a christian. Say such another word and I discard you, disclaim you for ever. Thy converse with these Gentiles has debauched thy faith. What do we mix with them; what do we serve them; what do we bear their abomination, their insults for, but to make our own advantage of them? Fools! vain presumptuous fools! to imagine that any benefits, any ingratitude can bind us to them; or change the innate hatred of our souls, to a sect, that has been the cause of our dispersion and ruin. But to silence thy weak scruples about injustice, with a word, have I not the authority of our holy scripture, the example of our great prophet Moses himself, for what I do, who borrowed the wealth of the Egyptians without a design of ever returning it, to pay the children of Israel, for the labors they had been put to by their oppressors, and enrich them when they should arrive at the land of promise?—And is not this my case? have I not labored hourly for this gentile woman without payment? Did not she join to defraud our people of a much greater sum than this, to which my mite was added too, under the pretence of procuring us a settlement! and did she not refuse to return it, when the attempt failed of success. What then is this, but a just retaliation! a fulfilling of our law, that says, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for

a tooth. And do I not want her wealth to make my settlement happy, in the land of my forefathers."—The son had too high a reverence for the judgment of his father, to offer any reply, but yielded to the conviction of arguments so conclusive. By this time the wind and tide served for us; we arrived in Holland without any thing remarkable, except I should take notice to you of the sordid hypocrisy of my master as such, who, not to violate the customs of his race, made a pretence of poverty, to get his passage without expense.

CHAPTER XVII.

As soon as we arrived at the Hague, my master sent his son to prepare for their immediate departure, while he went himself, for a moment, to speak to one of the principal members of the states.

There was little ceremony between a Dutchman and a Jew, but entering directly upon business, 'My friend Aminadab,' said his mightiness, 'I am glad to see you; I hope you have brought us good news; and that there is a stop put to the insolence of those English pirates, who, in a manner, block up our ports, and have almost ruined our trade.'

"Really, my friend Van Hogan," replied my master, 'I am sorry that I cannot give you any satisfactory account of that affair. For such is the perverseness of the people in power there at present, that they will not listen to any arguments.'—'Will they not take money?'—'No, indeed; nor does the boldest of us all know how to offer it with safety, it was rejected with such indignant rage the last time; though in truth the offer was a tempting one. I have seen the day, and that not very long since, when half the sum would have done twice as much. But matters are most strangely altered of late.—They have got a manager, who neither drinks, nor games, keeps running horses, nor whores, nor lives above his private fortune, and therefore has not such pressing demands for money, as used to make our negotiations go on so smoothly with others formerly.'

"Death! what shall we do? Is the whole court corrupted by this example? are they all infected with such a strange madness?"

"No, it is not gone so far as that yet; and it is to be hoped, that the example of a few will not be able to do so much; and that, when the novelty of this humor wears off a little, it will go out of fashion insensibly, and things return to their old

course. This is supposing the worst, that the engines, now at work to overturn this new set, should miscarry."

"But what must we do in the mean time? We shall be ruined before that may happen! we must declare war, and do ourselves justice."

"But may not the remedy there be worse than the disease? Are your affairs in such a condition as to entitle you to take such a step? Consider what a mighty naval force they have at this time! consider how you will be able to resist it."

"That is the thing, the only thing that has kept us quiet so long! But something must be done; another *Ambayna* affair, or some such stroke, must bring us satisfaction, and revenge too."

"Take care, my friend; be cautious what you do: this is no time for such strokes; nor are the present governors such people as those, who suffered them so tamely: they will be apt to return the stroke, in a manner that may be attended with consequences too dreadful to be hazarded. I hate those haughty islanders, as much as you; except some few particulars, the sense of the whole nation has ever been against us; nor would they suffer us among them now, ~~but~~ that we have availed ourselves so well of the favor of those few, as to get the command of almost all the money in the kingdom into our own hands, so that now they dare not provoke us too far; though I own I do suspect that the design of the present rulers is to get out of our power as soon as this war is over, ~~if~~ our old friends do not counteract their designs."

"But all this time, this talking, signifies nothing to our affairs; what do they say to them? ~~What~~ ^{What} reasons do they give for encouraging these outrages, in breach of treaties, and contempt of justice?"

"In truth, my friend, a great many, that are more just than agreeable; more easily exclaimed against than refuted. In answer to your alledging the faith of treaties, they insist, that they strictly observe the sense and spirit of them, while you only cavil about the words, it being absurd to think, that any nation should bind up its own hands, in the manner you pretend; or, even if that was the meaning of the treaty, at the time when it was made, that your abuse of the indulgence given by it makes it necessary to retract it now: and they express the most indignant surprize at your insisting so strongly upon one article, which at best is but doubtful, and would be in itself absurd, in the sense you wrest it to, while you break through so many, the meaning of which you do not even pretend to dispute."

"Then we will dispute no longer about them; we will enforce their observation, by the same methods that originally obtain-

ed them.'——'Aye, if that could be; but, my friend, I cannot flatter you; I am afraid those means are out of your power; you were then really mighty states, respectable for your power, and dreadful for your valor. but the case is now altered, I need not say how.'

"Ungrateful English! to forget how we rescued them from poverty and slavery, but the other day; had it not been for us, they would at best, have been but slaves to France."

"The very charge they make against you, who, they say, could never have resisted the power of Spain, or established your liberties, if their queen Elizabeth had not hearkened to the cries of your poor distressed states. As for the affair you mention, though they do not deny the benefit, they take off from the obligation, by attributing it to self interested motives, as, they say, you were convinced that, if any thing happened to them, you must sink of course: beside, that you have been amply paid for this, by the immense expense of blood and treasure with which they evidently entered into on your accounts, to the neglect of their own interest.

"In a word, my friend, there is so much truth in what they say, that I would not advise you to insist upon these points any more.'——'Confound the points! and the memories that rip them up so. What shall we do. I myself lost a ship last week, worth fifty thousand ducats; though all the precautions possible were taken; as sending her papers by another ship, supplying her with false bills of lading, false clearances, false consignments, in short every thing that human art could devise."

"And I know she was as well insured for to prevent her being condemned, as human conscience could swear; but nothing could elude the captors; or deceive or influence the judges,' 'But was she not insured?'"

Not a ducat; there is nothing to be got by ensuring, except the ships are to be cast away: O my ship! my ship! I will have war.'——'And then all your ships go at once.'——'I am distracted! what shall we do?'"

"My friend, the best, the only advice I can give you, is to put a stop to this trade, and open your eyes to your true interest. I hate the English as much as you possibly can; but that should not make me to ruin myself be revenged on them; they are your only natural allies; they first delivered, they still sustain you, nor can you support the very name of an independent state without them. Provoke them not therefore, too far; I wonder how they have borne so much already; preserve a fair neutrality; they despise your assistance, and desire no more: nor by your avarice force them to measures, that must end in your ruin. If you break with them, whom will you ap-

ply to. The French have given you many proofs, that they wait only for an opportunity to enslave you: Spain has at length learned its own interest, and will not break with the only power, whose friendship can be of real service to it: and this very war gives a sufficient demonstration of Austrian faith and gratitude.

This is the obvious situation of things, and must strike a person at the first view: but a moments thought will shew them, even in a stronger light. For to grant that France and Austria both may be sincere in their professions to you; does not reason shew you the imprudence of trusting to promises, which it is more than probable they will not be able to perform? For, if you would but divest yourself of passion and prejudice for a moment, you will see that the measures entered upon, and the means used to carry them on, by the English at this time, must, in all human appearance, disappoint the schemes of their enemies, and retort, upon their own heads, the ruin they meditated for others. Indeed the prospect is such, that it is impossible to say where things will end: every interior fund is exhausted; every external resource cut off; their own trade is absolutely ruined; the treasures of Spain, which supplied them in their last wars, are no longer at their command; so that I can foresee nothing less than their becoming bankrupts, not only to themselves, but also to every foreign state and individual, whose avarice of present gain has made them supply their wants.

"Nor is this distress the effect of chance, or of an unfortunate campaign, which the success of another, or some lucky hit, may restore. It is the natural consequence of a system of measures, planned with judgment, and prosecuted with vigor, by a minister who will not fail to improve it to the most solid advantage. And this I say, not solely from my own opinion. You know I have had connections with persons able to give me the best information, by the assistance of which I have traced the progress of these affairs with astonishment: and therefore, as England has thus at length shewn a superiority in council, the usual resource of patching up a good peace, at the end of an unsuccessful war, seems also to be precluded from them.

"As for the house of Austria, it has ever been a dead weight upon its friends, though its infatuated ingratitude to England, which has been in a manner its sole support, for near a century, will, probably, prevent any other state from undertaking such a burthen, so that it must sink back into its original obscurity and barbarism.

"Thus you see, my friend, that depending upon France, is leaning on a broken reed, and trusting to Austria, going for shelter under a falling wall: what then can you do if the English

should take offence at your behaviour, and exert that power which is in their hands, to punish your avaricious partiality to their enemies?"

"Your power is, in every instance, contemptible; your navy is gone absolutely to decay; your land forces are filled with old men and children; your officers, who might have served you, have been obliged to enter into other services for bread, to make room for ignorant, indolent, pusillanimous burghers, who barter their votes for such a share of the spoils of the public. Your finances are in the lowest state of embarrassment; your public spirit, your valor, your virtue, all swallowed up by selfishness, and sordid love of gain; every thing in the situation, that seems to invite ruin, if it is not speedily prevented; and that can possibly be done no other way, than as I have mentioned; for as I have said, and must again repeat, things are now on a footing there, that you do not seem to be properly aware of. The people are sensible of their own strength; governors exert it properly, and there is a mutual confidence between them, that in a manner ensure success to their attempts. Consider this fair, this friendly representation of real facts, and you will soon see the improbability of their bearing with you any longer; or suffering you to defeat the ends of their military efforts, by carrying on the trade of their enemies, and so enabling them to continue the war."

"Is it come to this? Are the friends on whom we depended most turned against us. Are you an advocate for our enemies, and would persuade us to give up the most advantageous branch of trade we have?"

"Why will you let your passion blind you thus? I have told you before, and I repeat it again, that of all christians I hate the English most, because they resemble us least; as I love the Dutch most, as you come nearest to ourselves, both in practice and profession. But my passions never blind me! and therefore I speak the dictates of reason; I plead not for them, nor will I flatter you.

"Notwithstanding all their boasted power, we have one stroke left to humble them; and we will make it directly; we will draw all our money out of their funds."

"You will so! at a third part loss? O, Moses! what fools are those christians! Do you not see that even this stroke, as you call it, is guarded against? that, apprehensive of such an attempt, they have lowered the particular funds, in which your money chiefly lies, so far, that the loss of selling out now would be intolerable. And whose is this money which you would draw out? the property of private people? absurd thought! if it was the money of the public, it would not be strange to see it sa-

crificed to private interest; but there is no instance in all your story, of private property being given up voluntarily for the redress of public wrongs.

"Friend Hogan, I am in haste; my affairs call me elsewhere; when I shall see you again is uncertain; but my regard would not permit me to miss this opportunity of giving you my advice, which I knew to be of importance to you. I can no longer undertake your affairs in London; nor would I have another amuse you, with hopes that must deceive you in the end: while it was in my power, to serve you, I did; I abused their confidence; I betrayed their secrets to you: but I can do it no longer; nor can any other to effect. Measures, as well as men, are changed.——Adieu."

With these words my master went to seek his son, leaving his friend, Van Hogan, in the highest distraction, between the opposite impulses of the strongest passion that could agitate his soul, avarice and fear.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE young Israelite met his father punctually, and gave him such an account of his preparations for their flight, that Aminadab blessed the god of his fathers, and to complete the fullness of his harvest with whatever gleanings he could pick up, he went directly among his dutch friends, and in pious imitation of the example he had quoted before, borrowed, if not jewels of gold and jewels of silver, as much coined gold and silver as he could, and then going with his son to the sea side, they embarked for their native country, in all the exultation of successful villainy.

But I went not with them; my British shape being of more value in Europe than where he was going, my master left me with his banker, in exchange for the more fashionable coin of Spain, which neighborhood made better known there.——My Hebrew master scarce left the banker, into whose hands he had given me, when in came his Belgic friend Van Hogan, all agast at the news he had received from him, and something else, which had come to his knowledge since.

"O *Mynheer!*" said he, 'we are all blown up and undone! the flood is pouring in upon us.'——'What is the matter now, *Mynheer!*' replied the banker, 'that throws you into this strange consternation? the worms have not destroyed the dams? nor an earthquake swallowed up the Spice-Islands?'

"Worse, worse if impossible, than even these. Those stubborn, proud, self sufficient English have refused to release our

ships that were taken carrying ammunition and provision to their enemies, so that we are like not only to lose those ships, but also the advantage of the trade for the future. What can be done, to divert this blow?"——'Really, *Mynheer*, I cannot tell; the case is bad enough to be sure; but it is no more than was to be expected; it was not to be thought that they should always remain such passive fools, as tamely to look on, while we supplied their enemies with necessaries to carry on the war against them, without endeavoring to put a stop to us."

"Death. I am almost mad to hear you talk thus! but, say what you will, my province shall never bear it. Why, I have received advice this minute, that all our ships which were freighted for their enemies will be condemned; and that they are as little moved at our menaces, as they were at our intreaties. If this continues, we shall not have a ship left in the Texel."

"Nay, mine shall escape, I am resolved.'——'What will you do to save them?'——'Not run them into the danger, *Mynheer*.'——'How, give up the trade?'——'Most certainly; since it cannot be carried on with safety any longer, and glad that I have come off so well.'——'I do not understand you.'——'You are too warm, *Mynheer*; too sanguine in the pursuit of your projects; while the surprise or fright of the late managers in England gave me reason to think, that they would not venture to interrupt us, I carried on as large a trade, in this way, as any other: but, as soon as I saw the people, recover their senses, and the reins put into other hands, I made a timely retreat with what I had acquired.'——'And what do you intend to do now?'——'Keep fair with those whom I can get nothing by breaking with, and throw my business into another channel; by which management I have already succeeded so far that I have got the British remittances to the parties engaged in the present war.'——'Why there may be something in this; and, if one scheme fails, I believe I will even follow your example.'——'And pray what is that, *Mynheer*?'——'No more than the old cry of piracy; but this is so laid that it can hardly fail of success: we have bribed the captain of an English privateer, to rifle a ship that we prepare properly for the purpose, and then to come into the way of one of our men of war, which is to take him and bring him in, where he is to insult the government, and vindicate his outrages on the pretence of authority."

"And pray *Mynheer*, what can you propose from all this, beside having the foolish villain hanged?"

"Why the English, in detestation of such villainy, will give up the point of searching our ships, when they see their autho-

rity abused in such a manner, and so we shall gain our end that way ; or, if they do not, our own people will be so enraged at the insult and injustice, as they will believe, of their proceeding, that they will immediately declare war against them; and so we shall obtain it the other. The pirate, when he has served our turn, we are to let escape; and it will be no great loss to the world if half a score of his crew are hanged."

"A very just and public spirited scheme indeed! to hang wretches for a crime you hire them to commit, and engage your country in a war, that must be its ruin, to support your pretensions to an unjustifiable trade.

"*Mynheer Van Hogan*, I am a Dutchman as well as you, and attached to my interest, as every Dutchman is; but that is, when my interest is not destructive of itself in the end, as I must tell you, I think your present scheme is, in which I will be no farther concerned, than to try to prevent the evil consequences of it to the state; the rest may lie upon your own head."

"Any thing in the way of trade, my conscience complies with without scruple; I can take every oath that every officer of the customs in Europe can impose, and not think myself bound by any of them, farther than they agree with my interest; I can supply the enemies of my country with arms, to fight against ourselves, provided they pay a price extraordinary, that will defray my taxes towards the support of the war; I can receive circumcision, stroke down my beard, and swear by Mahomet, to avoid a tax at Smyrna; I can trample upon the cross, deny Christ, and call myself a Dutchman, to obtain leave to trade in Japan; but I will not cut the dykes to drown a rat at home.

"I am not at leisure to say more on this subject, as I am this minute going to remit a subsidy to one of the German princes, whom England keeps in pay, to fight for their own preservation, from the same principles, that it has long fought our battles, and would again, if we did not provoke it too far. And, when this is done, I am to meet the French ambassador to settle terms with him, for remitting the money, that is to pay the army, which fights against the allies of England. So that you see I am engaged, as you may be, if your warmth, unnatural to the cool temper of our country, will let you open your eyes to your true interest."

Mynheer Van Hogan departed, rather silenced than satisfied, with the reasoning of my master, who sat down to negotiate the hire of a principality, with as much unconcern, as he would that of a turnip field; and bought and sold the inhabitants, with as much indifference, as he would have bargained for a cask of herrings; in which service, it fell to my lot to be employed.

Greatly as I must have been edified by the examples and principles, mercantile, moral, civil, and religious of my late master, I must own, there was something so grossly reprobate to every sense of real virtue, even in him, that I was pleased to leave him, and indeed, to be candid, the country in general; where the very profession of virtue was despised, their only pretension to it being the absence of one vice, hypocrisy, which they rejected, as an unnecessary incumbrance, and acted their grossest enormities, without reserve, or appearance of shame.

I now entered on the great theatre of the world, where the sovereign actor, gave a dignity to the scenes; and the concerns of individuals were overwhelmed and lost, in the confusion of nations.

CHAPTER XIX.

WHILE I was travelling to my destined master, I had frequent opportunities of seeing the fruits of military glory, in the misery of the people, and desolation of the countries through which I went.

Such scenes as these cannot be made known by description to an inhabitant of this happy island, whose situation defends it from the sudden inroads of foreign enemies, as its natural naval strength does from the more deliberate devastations of regular invasion; and the excellency of its laws, from the yet severer outrages of arbitrary power.

But, amid all this unhappiness, such is the insatiate ingratitude of the human heart, that, not content with these blessings, you are ever complaining, ever grasping at more, till, in the end, you lose the enjoyment of what you possess, insensible, that your severest wants would be abundance to millions, who dare not even utter a complaint.

It has been said that there is a certain degree of madness requisite to make a great man; that is, to enable humanity to conquer its first principle of self preservation, to slight the most terrifying dangers, and seek the most severe evils that interrupt its pursuit of an imaginary good.

The lust of power, and the intoxication of glory, may seem to animate the great to this contradiction of nature, but madness alone can support the mass of mankind through it, who are insensible to these fantastic motives, or at least cannot delude themselves with the faintest hope of ever obtaining them.

Of this I saw many instances in my journey through the countries, that were the scene of the present war; but one more particularly that happened in one of the Dutch travelling boats,

early in our journey, made the strongest impression on me, and deserves relation most.——There had been an obstinate battle fought some time before between the parties then at war, in which the loss was so severe, and so equal on both sides, that, as soon as night covered their retreat, each withdrew, concluding itself vanquished, though next morning, when they came to a better knowledge of each other's situation, they both claimed the victory, while neither thought proper to return to the charge to assert that claim.

This uncertainty aggravated the misery of the unhappy wretches, who were left wounded on the field of battle, as it prevented their receiving relief, either from friend or enemy. However, as this dreadful scene was acted in the neighborhood of a neutral city, as soon as the first terrors of it were a little cooled, the common feelings of humanity moved some of the inhabitants to go, and try to relieve as many of the deserted sufferers, as had not perished for want of more timely assistance, without distinction, or respect to any party.

Two of these victims of ambition, who had been enemies in the day of battle, but had since founded a friendship on their common calamity, having been supported by the same charity, and cured of their wounds in the same bed, were now striving to get the mangled remains of their mutilated carcasses carried, like other worn out instruments of the war, to their respective countries. In their journey they happened to be brought to the water side, where we had just taken boat, where they begged in the most moving terms to be admitted, but were absolutely refused, till one of the passengers, an English gentleman, took compassion on their distress, and paid their fare.

We were all seated in the equality usual in such a vehicle, in which, as in the grave, all conditions are thrown promiscuously together, when, the conversation happening to turn upon the war, which then reigned in most parts of Europe, and every one speaking variously, as prejudice or opinion dictated, the Englishman chanced to say, that he thought such a combination of the greatest powers of Europe, as, at that time, labored to oppress the king of Bulgaria, was to divest it of the intricacies of ambition, and bring politics to the rule of reason and justice, the most injurious; and even base abuse of power; that could be instanced in the christian history; and he hoped, and indeed doubted not, but that glorious prince, and the bravery and attachment of his subjects to his cause, that is, really to their own cause, would rise superior to all the attempts of his enemies, and retort upon them the stroke which they had perfidiously aimed at his ruin, to their dishonor and confusion.

The rage into which this reflection, so injurious to the glory of the grand monarch, threw one of the passengers, who thought it levelled particularly at him, though no names had been mentioned, was so great that he could not suppress it, till the gentleman should conclude; but interrupting him, without the least respect to his personal obligation, for he was one of the two whom I mentioned to have been admitted into the boat on his charity, 'What do you mean, sir,' said he, 'by saying that this war will end in the dishonor of the king of France? Was not his motive for entering into it the most disinterested and glorious! to support the rights of sovereignty, and bring vassals to a proper sense of duty and obedience? And has not the success been answerable to the greatness of his designs? Have not his forces been every where victorious by land and sea?'

The tone of voice with which these words were spoken drew the eyes of all present upon the speaker, a little, old, withered creature, who wanted both his legs, and scarce seemed to have skin enough, not to say flesh, to cover the remainder of his shattered bones, and keep them together. But his spirit supplied all these disadvantages, and enabled him to raise himself upon his stumps, and cast a look of the most ferocious rage around him, as if he meant to destroy whoever dared to dispute his words.

But his triumph was not long; his fellow traveller immediately taking him up with equal fury, 'How,' said he, 'the army of France ever victorious over Bulgaria! what assurance can dictate such a falsehood? Where have they obtained one victory? Where have they escaped defeat, except when the superiority of their numbers have exceeded all proportion! and even then, their slain have generally equalled the whole amount of the forces whom they fought with: what armies have they lost already! how few of those which remain will ever return to their native home, even in the wretched condition that you do?'

These last words raised a general laugh at the person who spoke them, he being, if possible, in a more maimed and helpless condition, than the one to whom they were addressed, having lost both his arms, and one of his eyes.

He perceived the motive of their mirth, and submitting to the rebuke with a manly fortitude of mind, 'I see, gentlemen,' said he, 'that you laugh at my mentioning the wretchedness of any other living creature with contempt, who am such a sufferer myself! but what absurdities will not passion hurry men into! and how could human patience bear to hear this Frenchman boast of the victories of his monarch, whose forces I my-

self have assisted to rout, at every place where I have ever met them."

"You rout the forces of my master!" replied the other, "my master's forces would eat up all your master's subjects, for a breakfast."—"I do not deny their number nor their appetites," returned the Bulgarian, "they leave sufficient evidence of both wherever they go: cruelty and rapine lead forth their armies; famine and desolation mark their marches. Shake not your head at me, nor lift up your hand, as you regard your life; else, loth as I am to make misery ridiculous by a quarrel between two such wretches as we are, though I have not an hand to strike, with my foot will I spurn out your life, and trample on your carcase."

"Morbilleu! compare the mighty monarch of France with a little German king."

"You mistake me greatly; I never meant to compare them: the greatness of your monarch I do not deny, were it not abused to purposes that make it a dishonor to him, and a misfortune to his subjects; whereas our sovereign is the father of his people, and never exerts his power, but to their advantage."

"Gentlemen, you must forgive my warmth; any thing against myself I can despise; but my king, my father, I cannot, I will not hear spoken of with disrespect, while I have even a voice left to assert his cause: I have fought for him; I have fought with him: for he does not sit rioting in the debaucheries of a court, while his subjects are encountering hardships and dangers to gratify his vanity or revenge. His quarrels are the quarrels of his people; and he fights their battles with them; and the only regret I feel for the loss of my limbs is, that I can employ them no longer in his service, for which I would lay down my life this minute with joy, could it gain him the least advantage, or was it necessary to prove my attachment to him."

"But, since I can no longer have the happiness of being of service to him, all I have now to do is to retire to my native country, where his paternal care has made such a provision for my wants, that I shall wear out my days in content, without ever having my prayers for his welfare and success, disturbed by one repining wish, one just complaint."

"But ask this vain-glorious knight errant if he can say so? did he fight for the preservation of his family, his country, and his religion, as I did? Did he fight under the conduct of his sovereign, who personally provided for the necessities, the comfort of his men, as I did? Is he sure of a peaceful retreat at home, safe from the additional distress of want, as I am?"

"Not at all; he fought for he knew not what, he knew not whom. At a distance from his king, who was insensible of his

dangers, and reveled in delicacies, while his subjects, the victims of his ambition, were destitute of the common, indispensable necessities of nature; nor has he any other hope of prolonging his miserable days when he gets home, but the wretch's last resource of begging, in a country so exhausted by the vain tyranny of his master, that charity is almost an ineffectual virtue, for want of means for its exertion.'——All present were struck with the force with which the soldier delivered his sentiments, nor did his antagonist attempt any reply; but opening their common wallet, in which the Bulgarian carried all their wealth, he took out what belonged to himself, saying, with a sneer, 'that, since his feet were so good, he might hereafter use them instead of hands, for he would feed him no longer.'

This poor spirited sarcasm was received by the person to whom it was applied, with a smile of disdain, though it raised the idle laughter of the greater part present. But the Englishman received it in another manner, for, drawing out his purse, he took twenty ducats, and putting them himself into the pocket of the Bulgarian 'Accept of these, my brother soldier,' said he 'to make your journey into your native country more convenient, where you cannot meet more tender regard from your sovereign and country, than your sensible attachment to them merits. As far as I shall go your way I will take care of you myself, and that will defray the expense of the rest of your journey with comfort.'

CHAPTER XX.

THE Bulgarian was unable to express his gratitude for this charity, the manner of presenting which doubled the obligation of it. But the big tear that stole in silence down his manly cheek, as he bowed his head to his benefactor, spoke it with a more affecting eloquence than any words could do; and influenced every person present so much in his favor as to make them vie in offering him their assistance.

As soon as he recovered utterance, 'Such' said he 'is the noble benevolence that distinguishes the sons of liberty, such the generosity of heart, that always extends the ready hand of a Briton, with relief to the distressed. May heaven preserve to your happy nation the blessings which enable it to exert its virtues, to make them a blessing to all who want their assistance. And though envy may malign, and ingratitude return, benefits with evil, beneficence finds its reward in its own exertion, in the certainty of a retribution from those treasures which never fail.'

The turn of this soldier's discourse, and particularly the last part of it, seemed so much above his present appearance, that it raised a curiosity in his benefactor to ask him, 'if he had been bred to arms, or how long he had professed the military life, and in what station.'

"O, Sir," replied he with a sigh, that seemed to tear his heart, 'your question recalls to my memory scenes that I would willingly forget forever, and obliges me to relate such things as would draw tears from Tartars, Pandours, or, the crueller soldiers of the king of France.—I was not bred to arms, nor have I followed the military profession long, or in any other rank than that which rage and despair first placed me in, when I offered myself to my sovereign to repel the invaders, and revenge the desolation of my bleeding country. My unhappy story is no more than this:

"I am a native of Bulgaria, the son of a minister of the gospel, who, observing a desire of knowledge in my youth, encouraged and improved it by its own precepts and example, and led my studious mind through the sublimest paths of science.

"As soon as he saw my resolutions sufficiently established to be proof against the levity of youth, and temptations of sense, he yielded to my intreaties, and I was admitted into the sacred order of which he was a member, and made the perfection of human wisdom, the practice of piety and virtue under the direction of the divine word, the business of my happy life. Happy indeed then! but now the recollection of that happiness aggravates my present misery, in the irrecoverable loss of it, almost to despair.

"As the religion of the benign redeemer of mankind does not enjoin impossibilities, by requiring us to eradicate passions, which are the essence of our nature, and whose indulgence, under the direction of reason and virtue, is the end of our creation, and the basis of our being, and fulfils the first divine command, by continuing our species, and increasing the number of his adorers, I obeyed the impulse of virtuous love, and married the daughter of a neighboring divine, who completed to me, as I vainly thought, the sum of human happiness, by a numerous offspring, which grew up on the knees of their aged grandsire; my father, now become too feeble for the active duties, while my labors supplied the necessaries of life to my contented family, in which I thus stood the happy centre of filial and paternal love.

"In this blissful state did I advance towards heaven, when envy of his glory, and fear of his virtues, brought this destructive war upon the dominions of our sovereign. O, my father, my children, my wife, in one day did I lose you all. These

eyes beheld my habitation reduced to ashes, my children massacred in the wantonness of cruelty, in despite of the prayers of my aged father, whose snow-white hairs, whose whole appearance would have struck the ruthless hearts of the ancient heathen Gauls with reverence; in despite of the cries of my beautiful wife, who both begged to draw their fury on themselves, from the defenceless innocents; but, all in vain; the murderers, deaf to their cries and intreaties, insensible to the beauty of the babes, who stood smiling at the swords that hung over their heads, first butchered them as in sport; then abused the person of my wife to death, and mangled my father's breathless body, whose tender heart the grief of such a sight had burst, while I, unhappier far than any, stood looking on, bound to a tree, with my jaws distended with the head of a spear, and my cheeks cut open thus from ear to ear, a bible being placed before me, and a French priest standing by, encouraging their cruelty, as meritorious against hereticks, and insultingly bidding me preach now to my congregation, at the same time refusing me the release of death, which I sought by all the signs despair could suggest, and making them leave me naked, and whipped till my body was all one wound, to perish by famine and grief.

"But heaven had ordained otherwise for me; some of my neighbors who had escaped their fury, came, as soon as night favored their fears to learn our fate, and offered any assistance in their power. They unbound me; they buried the remains of my last slaughtered family, and forced me from the grave, to their retreat in the woods, where they healed my wounds and strove to comfort my distress. But all their arguments would have been too weak to make me suffer life, had not a desire of revenge taken possession of my soul, and silenced every other thought.

"As soon as I had recovered strength, I hastened to the army of my sovereign, where I threw myself at his feet and told him all my distress. He heard me with pity; he shed tears at my sad story, and raising me with his own hand, 'Be comforted, my brother,' said the mighty monarch to his meanest subject, 'be comforted, the losses of the just will be repaid in heaven; there thy happy family expect thine arrival; there thy virtues will be rewarded, thy joys complete; when the evils of this world, which endure but for a moment, shall be at an end. The horrors of war agree not with the innocence of your past life, or the humane tenderness of your disposition, and would but aggravate your griefs, by the unhappy unavoidable repetition of like scenes of ruin. Retire therefore to my capital, where all the comforts of life shall be provided for you, to alleviate your distress, while your prayers assist us in the day of battle.

"I heard his words with reverence, but his virtue was too sublime for my imitation. I fell again at his feet, and wringing my hands, O Sir," said I, "this goodness is too great for men; alas, I am unable to obey its dictates; my soul languishes for vengeance: O, bear with human infirmity, and permit me to fight under thy command. Heaven heard not my prayers, or it would have prevented my ruin; let me then have recourse to other methods for redress; let me contribute my poor help to thy victories, to the deliverance of my country; I die this moment if my prayer is refused."

"Be then my companion in this just war," said my sovereign raising me up again, "and, since thy sacred function must not be disgraced with any other rank, fight by my side, and lead me to success."

"From that day have I followed his steps in the field of battle, at an awful distance; and been witness to all the wonders of his conduct and valour; till in the late action a cannon shot took off both my arms, as I had the honour of holding my own horse for him to mount, his having been killed under him as I fought by his side.

"He expressed concern at my misfortune, and commanded me to retire to his own tent; but 'an Austrian hussar, the moment after, cut me down with his sabre, though in the unpremeditated instinct of self-preservation I had held up both my bleeding stumps to ward the blow.

"Here I lay among my fellow sharers in the common calamity, in submissive expectation of the stroke of fate, from the horses feet; or the pillagers of the field. But heaven had otherwise ordained; and, after two days weltering in my blood, I was relieved, and recovered by charity, to the condition in which you see me, and am now striving to go, and avail myself of my master's humane offer, which your benevolence enables me to do with comfort.

"This fellow sufferer, whose arrogance first prompted me to speak, has been a sharer with me also, in the charity which relieved us, where our common calamity created a kind of friendship between us, and our necessities suggested it to us to combine the remains of our limbs, for mutual assistance, he preparing our victuals, and feeding me, while I have carried not only our poor baggage, but him also, upon my back.

"But that alliance is at an end; not because the relief which you so generously have bestowed upon me, may seem to free me from the necessity of his assistance, for I must beg your leave to divide it with him, as half is sufficient for me, but that my soul abhors the principles which first led him into this distress and which even such sufferings cannot shew the impious

absurdity of; and disclaims connection with the enemy of my gracious sovereign, who would thus malign his glory, when he cannot deny, nor longer resist the virtues, that have raised it."

By this time we arrived at the place, where I was to be delivered to the minister of my destined master, who immediately carried me to him.

CHAPTER. XXI.

WE found him busied in reviewing some new levies, which he had just raised, to hire out to the best bidder of the parties then engaged in war, without ever examining the justice of the cause, or considering any other motive of consequence, than just the immediate price he was to receive, out of which he bounteously allowed them a pittance to support the lives so useful to him.

As soon as the men were ordered to their quarters, his highness retired with his minister, who presenting the bag in which we were, with a bent knee, "The subsidy, may it please your most serene highness, from England," said he. "It is well," replied the sovereign, "but upon what terms?" "The same your highness had last year." "No more! they shall not have my men! I can have more elsewhere! France offers better." "Then I must return this money, please your highness." "Return it? no; for what?" "If your highness does not like the terms, you will not keep the money, I presume." "Fool, but I will! Such laws may bind you subject wretches; but sovereign princes are above them; laws are not made for us." "I humbly implore your highness's pardon for my ignorance; then you will not give those troops to France." "Yes, when France pays me for them." "But, in the mean time, as England has already paid your highness, they will depend upon them, and consequently suffer by the disappointment." "Then let them prize my friendship properly another time; I am not obliged to support kings upon their thrones for nothing; I may invade as well as guard against invasion. They shall know whom they dare offend."

"Something has provoked your highness's wrath, which I am afraid my ignorance should aggravate."

"I will teach the respect that's due to sovereignty; I am not king of England, curbed in my will, and limited in power; my subjects are my slaves; they dare not think of any other law, besides my pleasure. Death! can you think it, my minister at the court of England writes me word, that a base plebian merchant has had the assurance to demand payment for the goods he sent me last year, for the support and splendor of my court,

and, on its not being deducted from the subsidy, to refuse supplying me this year, and even to threaten complaining to their parliament."

"Now judge you if a sovereign prince, whose forces are their security in time of danger, can brook such insolence: and to conclude the whole; what did the English minister say, when my minister remonstrated with him upon this affair, but that by the laws of England no man could be compelled to part with his property against his will, or hindered to complain if he thought himself aggrieved: and that the laws were sacred, and must not be infringed. Think now if I can with honor keep an alliance with such people, till I have received satisfaction: I, whose subjects have no property nor laws, but my will, to be treated in such a manner, by a vile trader: it is not to be borne."

"I am very sorry to hear of this affair, and particularly at this time, because if your highness should break with the English now, when they think they want your men, they may be provoked never to deal with your highness for them another time, when they have no other occasion for them, only to do your highness a service."

"Why there may be something in that; and, therefore, if they will send me the merchandise I want, and raise the subsidy, perhaps I may not refuse them the succors they desire."

"How much does your highness require to have the subsidy raised?"

"I have not thought of that yet. But surely they cannot be so unreasonable as to expect my men at the same rate, now in time of danger, as they had them in peace, when there was nothing at all for them to do, but they could work at their trades at home, and maintain themselves without wearing out their uniform, or any other expense to me." "That is very true; if your highness was not to consider at the same time, that even then they paid you as much as if it was a time of war, and indeed more than any other nation will, or can pay you now; for, as to the promises of France, they are not to be depended on at all, whereas England pays well."

"I do not care; what I have gotten here I will keep, by way of reprisal, for the insult offered to my honor; and, if they will have my troops, they shall pay me over again for them: so say no more on that head."

"I submit; but how will your highness subsist them at home, in the mean time? There must be an immediate remittance made of some of this money to Holland, to buy provisions, for your magazines are quite exhausted, and the constant demand for men, to supply the troops you have agreed for, and recruit the losses they have sustained in battle, have not left sufficient to cultivate the land."

"Then let them starve! I shall not expend a penny to support them: could not the women and children work? I wonder you should dare to mention such a thing. If I lay out this money, what is to support the splendor of my court, since this Englishman has refused to supply me?"

"I humbly beg your highness's pardon, but what answer am I to send to the English, who have demanded that the troops should march directly?"

"Why, that I am so enraged at the insult offered to me, by that merchant, that I will not let a man of them stir till I have satisfaction, and a new subsidy; and that I keep this one in the mean time, to make up the deficiencies in former years."

"Deficiencies? I do not understand your highness; the subsidies have been always regularly paid."

"Obey my commands! I say there have been deficiencies which I am not at leisure to explain, in this emergency; but I suppose my word will be taken for it."

"I fear your highness does not attend to the change which has lately been in England. The people who might have taken such an answer are now out of power; and their successors are the very men who have always been against dealing with your highness, and may now take the advantage of this breach of faith, for such I well know they will call it, to throw off your alliance for ever: for the people begin to see their own strength and their governors to exert it properly, and shew them that they want no foreign assistance. And as a proof of this, at this very time, when their enemies not only talk of invading them more confidently than ever, but also have gone so far as to make preparations for such an attempt, so far from being diffident of their own strength, or intimidated to call for help, they have actually sent a powerful body of their troops abroad, and are carrying on the war with vigour and success in every quarter of the world, satisfied that the inhabitants, who remain at home, are able to defend their country, and repel every attempt that may be made against it. And this change in their measures should give a caution how the persons who effected it are provoked."

"I care not; I will make the experiment; but do you draw up your despatches in such a manner, that we may have it in our power to explain them to whatever sense shall suit us best. In the mean time we must keep up our appearance of treating with France, to give a weight to our designs."

The minister was prevented from replying by the entrance of the muster master, who had been just making a survey, and taking an account of every man, *able to bear arms*, in his highness's territories.

"Well," said his highness, "how do your musters answer? shall I be able to enlarge the number of my troops this year?"—"May it please your most serene highness," replied the officer, "here is the return, in which I have taken down every man, from twelve to seventy, according to your commands."—"And how do they answer? better than last year I hope: there must be a great many boys have grown up since."—"The list indeed looks almost as full as usual; but the late battles have so drained us of men to fill up the troops, that there are scarce any but boys left at home, and those have been so badly fed of late, that their size does not answer their years, and they look wretchedly beside. So, that upon the whole, I fear your highness will find it very difficult to complete the forces already established, much more to raise any new."

"I must, I will, raise them! Tell me not of difficulties! what I command shall be performed! If there are not men, the women shall put on the men's cloaths and go: I will not be shortened of my revenue; they shall fight themselves, since they have not bred soldiers for me."

"This, please your highness, is a list of the disabled men, who are not able to support themselves by any kind of work, having lost their limbs in the wars."

"Disabled men? I thought I ordered you not to exchange them; they might have remained in the hands of the enemy; such of them I mean as are not able to breed soldiers for me, and cultivate the lands; or, such as were not prisoners might have been let perish of their wounds; it would have been a mercy to them to shorten their misery."

"May it please your highness, I observed your orders, and left a number of such wretches; unexchanged; but the enemy saw into my design, and sent them home to be rid of the trouble of them: and now they are crying for subsistence, and demand the arrears of their pay, which was stopped while they were prisoners. The others our surgeons took proper care of."

"Insolent slaves! demand pay, when they are no longer able to earn it! And subsistence too! they learned this impudence from their conversation with the English! it is much they did not demand roast beef and pudding too! Hang up half of them, the next word of the king they dare to utter, to terrify the other half to starve in quiet. And at your peril let me hear no more of them."

"As for the musters, I will have them completed; man woman, and child shall go! I will make my dominions a desert, before I lessen my consequence among the sovereign powers of Europe."

CHAPTER XXII.

HIS highness had just declared this magnanimous resolution, when the steward of his household entered to let him know, that the butchers and bakers of the next Hans town, from whence his table was supplied, had refused to send him any more provisions till their bills were paid, as they had heard that he was to receive no more subsidies from England; and there was scarce enough to make out dinner for that day, for the court was very numerous and brilliant, all the princes and princesses of the various branches of his highness's most illustrious house having come to pay him a visit of congratulation upon the birth of the most serene prince his son and heir: and that his purveyors had been able to find nothing in his own dominions fit for his table, but bear's flesh and venison, nor even a sufficient quantity of these, the misery of his people having made them venture to break through his laws, and hunt in his forests, to save themselves and their families from perishing by famine.

His highness had hearkened to him without any emotion, or even concern, till he mentioned this outrageous insult upon his sovereign authority and pleasure; but then bursting into a rage, 'Hunt in my forests!' said he, 'Audacious slaves! dearly shall they pay for their presumption! Order my troops to march that way directly! I'll lay the country waste!'—'Please your highness,' replied the steward, 'that will not cost you the trouble of marching your troops: the country is a desert already.'

"Who told you that they have been guilty of this insolence? you should have seized the author of the report, for not apprehending the criminals."

"May it please your highness, they took one wretch in the very fact, and have brought him here, to receive the sentence of your pleasure; and the stag with him alive, which he found in a pit, and had borrowed a gun to shoot. He pleaded hunger, and the cries of a starving family of grand children, for he is an old man, and his three sons have been killed in the wars; but, though I own he moved me, I did not presume to let him go."

"It is well you did not, or you should have suffered in his stead. Go strip him naked, bind him on that stag, and then let him loose with him upon his back into the woods, proclaiming, that no one, upon pain of death, presume to give him the least relief: he shall have hunting enough."

"But what will your highness have me to do about provisions for the entertainment of the princes. I believe they design a long visit, for they have brought all the young princes and princesses of their illustrious families with them."

"I care not! I am not to be disturbed on such trifles now, when the fate of nations depends on my resolutions: let them go home again."

"Not fasting I presume; for they have already signified some of them, that they have come without their breakfasts, by calling for refreshment the moment they arrived; and indeed I fear the principal motive of this visit of their highnesses was want of any thing to eat at home."

"Confusion! what can I do? Here, take this money, and send for victuals for them."

The sight of an handful of guineas was an agreeable surprise to the steward, who had not heard of the arrival of the subsidy from England. He received them with evident pleasure, and I felt no less in being delivered from this scene of sovereignty, of which I was sincerely sick; though, by the change, I fell from being the price of armies to the domestic office of going to market for a morsel of bread, from the glory of causing the slaughter of thousands to the virtue of supporting the lives of a few.

The steward, as soon as he withdrew from the presence of his highness, called the other officers of the household together, and told them, with joy in his countenance, that there was no foundation for the report of their master's breaking with England, so that they might look famine in the face for another year, and confirmed the glad tidings, by showing them the gold.

The pleasing sight raised universal joy; they licked their lips, feasted in imagination, and prepared things for getting dinner ready, with all the alacrity of willing minds, and keen appetites; while the steward, not caring to trust a commission of that importance to any inferior officer, waited only to wash down a mouldy crust with a draught of sour wine, and then went to market for them himself.

The appearance of things changed as soon as I left the hereditary dominions of his highness, and entered into the little territories of a free state. Plenty was the reward of industry, and content supplied well the place of grandeur.

As his highness's minister had pressing motives to accelerate his negociations, he went directly to the several dealers in provisions, and, ordering a comfortable supply on the credit of our appearance, returned with the greatest dispatch, to the discharge of the offices of his employment, in the ceremonials of the court.

In the course of these transactions it fell to my lot to be paid to a Jew, for bacon and sausages, the butchers of his religion being held to make the best of the latter, as they never cut out the nice bits to eat themselves.

CHAPTER XXIII.

I now entered into a service, the most diametrically opposite of any in nature to my last; my present master denying himself the very necessities of life to hide his riches under the appearance of poverty, as my last lived in the most vain ostentation of splendor to conceal his poverty under the appearance of riches.

It is difficult to say which hypocrisy was most absurd and contradictory to the immutable laws of moral justice. The former basely stealing, as I may say, from the public, that wealth which was ordained to be of advantage to it, and whose value arises only from its being used, by thus secreting it in his coffers; and the latter, in gratification of a vanity as unjustifiable as that avarice, committing every kind of actual violence to supply the want of it.

I here was soon initiated into all the mysteries of that lower species of trade, called peddling, which is in a manner engrossed by those people. False weights and measures, adulteration of wares, lying, perjury; in a word, every species of deceit, that can impose upon ignorance and credulity, were here reduced into a science, taught by precept, and enforced by example, from the earliest exertion of reason, to wear off every hesitation of conscience, and make the practice natural and expert.

The beauty of my appearance, for I had hitherto escaped mutilation, made my master, who was an adept in that art, think it improper to throw me among his diminished heap, as I should but make their loss the more remarkable. He therefore put me into his purse, to make a shew with upon occasions, and appear as a proof of his innocence of that practice, for which he was too strongly suspected.

The evening after I came into his possession happened to be one of their most solemn festivals. My master, therefore, who was of the tribe of Levi, retired from business early, to purify and prepare himself for the celebration of the most secret and mysterious ceremony of their religion.

This was the sacrifice of the passover, which, by a secret tradition, never committed to writing, for fear of being betrayed, was changed from the typical offering a lamb, to the real immolation of human blood, for which purpose the most

beautiful children were purchased at any expence, and under any pretext, from the ignorance of necessitous parents, or the perfidious avarice of servants, if they could not be obtained by stealth, and brought from all parts of Europe, to these ceremonies: it being a long received opinion, that the original sacrifice of a lamb was designed only for that one occasion, to conciliate the favor of heaven, to the escape of their forefathers out of Egypt; but that to render it propitious to their restoration, to their country, and to the consummation of their promised happiness and glory, the type must be changed for the thing typified, and human blood, in the purest state of infant innocence, be offered instead of the ineffectual blood of a brute.

But as some traces of natural affection might remain, even in hearts divested of the feelings of common humanity, to remove every obstacle to this practice, and stimulate superstition by hatred and revenge, the children of christians were appointed for this sacrifice, and those especially of the superior ranks of life, whose pride might be too apt to make them treat the people of the Jews, with severity and contempt.

As to other points, the rules laid down in the institution of the passover were literally observed, in respect to the victim, who was to be without blemish, a male of the first year, that is, the first born of his mother, and to be kept fourteen days before he was sacrificed, during which time they fed him with the richest food, to raise him to the highest perfection of his nature.

The place, chosen for the celebration of this ceremony, was a summer house in a garden belonging to one of the rulers of their synagogue, where they all met at the appointed time. As soon as they were placed in order, one of the elders stood up, and in a long speech declared the occasion of their meeting, read the original institution of the passover, and then recited the tradition, which changed the sacrifice to be offered, as I said before; concluding with an oath of secrecy, which all present joined in and confirmed with the most dreadful imprecations, and which was to be sealed by the participations of this horrid mystery.

When he had ended, the victims of that night were produced, their bodies examined for fear of blemish, and their primogeniture proved, by those who had provided them, and who were reimbursed their expenses before the sacrifices began, by the general contribution of all present.

This method was used, that every person might have an equal share in the merit of the sacrifice, as it would be dangerous and too expensive to provide a lamb for every head of a family in the congregation.

CHAPTER XXIV.

I SEE your astonishment how so absurd an opinion could ever take possession of a rational mind, as that the deity can be pleased with the breach of his most strict command, and rendered propitious by an action against which his severest vengeance is denounced; yet such are the errors which the least deviation from the straight paths of reason lead to, when ceremony is made the essence of religion, and human inventions substituted in the place of immutable and eternal virtue.

The devil, whoever is meant by that most comprehensive name, has long been charged with being the author of this and every other vice and folly, which men are ashamed of owning themselves; his temptation being a convenient and comfortable excuse. But, if a man would consider a little, he must blush at so unfair and ridiculous a charge, and give the poor devil his due, who, among all his failings, has never been suspected of being a fool, and nothing else could have devised such gross enormities, such contradictions to the plainest rules of common reason.

But of this strange institution of human sacrifices, we need search for the original no farther than in the heart of man, who observing, that to inculcate the duty of gratitude, the first of moral virtues, the divine will had directed returns of its blessings to be made, in the way of obligation or sacrifice, soon perverted the original purity of the institution to his own depravity; and, measuring the divine beneficence by his capricious avarice, concluded, that the richer the obligation, or the dearer to the offerer, the greater would the merit of it be, and thus he arose from a lamb to an hecatomb, from brute to human blood; his eagerness to obtain the end, for which he thus strove to bribe the favor of heaven, hindering him to see the absurdity of the means he used.

All things being prepared, the victims were brought to the altar, naked and bound, the instruments for slaying, and the fires for roasting them (for, horror to human thought! they were to have feasted on their flesh) in readiness, and the butchers, of whom my master was one, just going to begin the work, when the doors of the house were burst open, with an outcry, that heightened the terrors of the guilty wretches, and a band of soldiers rushed in and seized them, as they stood stupified with the fright.

The horror of the sight gave a respite to their fate, striking the very hearts of the soldiers, though hardened by all the cruel-

ties of war, with an astonishment that deprived them of power to stir for some moments. But this was only a short calm, that, as it were, gave time to the storm to gather; for, as they stood thus gazing at each other, one of the children cried out, O, father! father! come and untie my hands! these ugly cords hurt me!

The voice no sooner struck the ear of the officer who commanded the party, than, starting in a phrenzy, he ran to the child, whom he had not distinguished before, as he lay naked on the ground, and snatching him up in his arms, 'O my child!' said he, in an ecstasy, have I found you! have I rescued you in the very moment when you are going to be sacrificed by these wretches; O my child! my child!"

These words awoke the fury of the soldiers, which burst upon the wretched Jews, with a violence not to be restrained. The house was in a moment in a scene of horror beyond description. Most of them fell instant sacrifices to this resistless rage. Happier far in having so speedy an end put to their sufferings, than the few survivors, who saved their lives for that moment, by throwing themselves among the dead, or taking hold of the children, whom, even in this hurricane of passion, the soldiers took all care not to hurt.

The little respite which this caution gave, the officers improved to pacify the soldiers, who would not be persuaded to spare the rest, by any other argument but a positive assurance of having them put to the most severe and infamous public death.

When the storm was a little calmed by these means, and the living separated from the dead, the pillage of the scene was given up to the men, who rifled all, living and dead, with the most unrelenting severity, and retaliated their wicked intentions, with exemplary justice on the miserable criminals, stripping them quite naked, and binding them with the very cords which they took off their destined victims, who were unbound with the tenderest care, and carried away till their parents should be discovered, or, in case that could not be, to be educated at the public expense, as the children of the state, while their intended murderers were thrown into prison, till a punishment should be appointed severe enough for their guilt.

In the confusion of this affair, I fell into the hands of the officer who had found his child, whose passions were raised so high by the recovery of him, that, as soon as the plunder was over, he left his charge to another, and retired to share his joy with his disconsolate wife.

The tenderness of this meeting was a just reverse of the former part of the last scene, where the helpless infants were led forth to be slaughtered.

As the Jews were some of the wealthiest of the inhabitants, and carried on a great part of the trade of the city, the magistrates, to prevent the imputation of injustice, and to set the whole affair in a proper light to the world, convened the people early the next morning, where the rescued infants were produced on one side, and the few that remained alive of their intended butchers on the other, when my new master, who bore a considerable office in the state, beside his military command, untold the whole affair, in a short, but moving speech. He told them, 'that, having lost his only child, the infant there present, about a month before, and having been informed when he served in Poland, in his youth, that the Jews had a custom of stealing and sacrificing, or murdering infants, on the night when they celebrated their passover, he made no search for him, but seemed to believe a story which he had invented himself, to appease the distraction of his wife, that he had been killed and devoured by a tame wolf, that was kept in the garden of his country house, from whence he was stolen, watching, in the mean time, every motion of the Jews with such exactness, that he had punctual information of their meeting at the place where he had seized them the evening before: where it was to be lamented, that the just resentment of the soldiers had anticipated the severer hand of justice, and saved them from the laws, the judgment of which he now demanded against the remaining few, for himself, and for the unknown parents of the innocent victims whom they saw before them.'

A roar of universal indignation pursued his words, which had inflamed the rage and detestation of the people so high, that they were with difficulty restrained from tearing the wretches instantly to pieces, by the same arguments which had saved them from the soldiers before: nor were the Jews admitted to say a word in their own defence, for, though none of the infants had been actually murdered that night, yet the intention was beyond controversy; and, beside, many of the people, who had formerly lost their children, now charged them with their murder, with the strongest appearance of justice.

They were therefore dragged back to prison, where they lay loaded with chains, till the day of their execution, when they were all publicly burned alive on the very spot where they were to have perpetrated their guilt, the house being razed to the ground for that purpose, and all the effects of such as were taken in this fact confiscated to the use of the state.

CHAPTER XXV.

THIS affair was scarce ended, when I changed my master again. The city in which I was, had professed a neutrality in the present war, but whether yielding to inclination, or biassed by private interest, the magistrates had, on many occasions, shown the strongest partiality to the enemies of the king of Bulgaria.

Of this that heroic prince overlooked many instances in compassion to their folly; but, instead of inspiring them with proper sentiments of gratitude, this moderation only raised their injudicious pride so high, that, attributing it to fear, they at length proceeded so far, as to refuse him those good offices, which, by the universal laws of mankind, he had a right to demand, and treated his messengers with disrespect.

This drew on them a resentment that was never raised in vain. The king, without deigning to waste time in complaints, sent a body of forces directly to their gates, and obliged them to buy their safety with contributions, and deprecate his vengeance with submissions, which humbled their pride, and terrified their neighbors from being guilty of the like folly.

As these contributions were too large to be immediately discharged by the state, they were obliged to be levied on the subjects; by which means I came into the service of this monarch, to whose treasurer I was paid, by the humbled magistrates of the city, on their knees.

The many great things which I heard of this prince, had long made me wish for such an opportunity of seeing him, and of having a knowledge of his heart, that I might be able to judge whether he really was the great man he appeared to the world, by all his actions, to be. How my expectations were answered, cannot be explained justly, without a particular account of every thing I saw, while I was with him; but, as that would be too much for my time, which begins to grow short, I shall only give you a few particulars, by which you may form a judgment of the rest.

The king was walking in his camp, before the entrance of his tent, after having finished the business of the morning, conversing with the most engaging affability with his officers, and even the private centinels of his guard, redressing their complaints, and relieving their wants, when the magistrates of the city I had just left, arrived to pay their contributions, and make submission for their misbehavior; for, to humble them the more effectually, he had ordered that they should attend himself.

As soon as they approached him, they fell on their knees, and delivering the money to his treasurer, implored his pardon, in the most abject terms of submission. 'Arise,' said the monarch, and cease your supplications; the posture and address are both improper to be offered to a man; but the passions of the foolish are ever in extremes; and your fear sinks you now as low, as your vain insolence raised you high before. Depart in peace and safety; and let this teach you, not to mistake moderation for fear, another time. But beware that you offend not so again. Mercy, that is amiable in the first instance, degenerates to folly, if extended to a second."

The magistrates unable to speak before him, retired in confusion from his presence, when turning to his treasurer, 'Take,' said he, 'so much of that money as will repair the losses sustained by the innocent inhabitants of the country around their city, and see that it is given to sufferers, to be applied to that use, and none other, for I war not with the poor, nor would I have my steps marked by desolation, when it can possibly be avoided. And of the remainder leave the usual sum upon my table, for my private occasions."

Then addressing himself to the officers around him in general, 'How abject,' said he, 'is the submission of the proud? how does guilt humble the conscious heart? These unhappy men, who dared not now to meet our eyes, but hasted with downcast looks from the flash of just indignation, when last we saw them, looked us in the face with the assurance of friendly respect, and seemed happy in the marks of our regard. Let this teach us to preserve the adamant shield of a clear conscience, and terror can never strike a dart through it, to our hearts."

When the treasurer went to divide the money, among which I lay, according to his master's orders, I was greatly alarmed for fear I should be torn so soon from the presence of this prince; but my anxiety was relieved, when he took that bag in which I was, and gave it to one of his master's pages, to lay upon the table.

The many things I had heard of this prince's greatness, had I own, deceived me into expectations of pomp and greatness in this court, and particularly about his person. This made me surprised to find every thing in a plainness, far greater than what I had in many instances observed in private life. But I instantly perceived my error, and that his greatness was his own, established on the virtues of his soul, and independent of, and superior to every adventitious circumstance.

I had not lain long upon his table, when he entered alone, and walking a meditative turn or two across the tent, kneeled

down, and offered up his soul in the most ardent devotion to heaven.

He then arose with a most serenely cheerful countenance, and, coming to the table, poured out the money, and viewing it earnestly for a moment, 'O thou source of every evil which distracts this wretched world,' said he, 'let me not be infected by thy poison; let not my heart conceive a fondness for thee, farther than what thy native value of enabling it to do good, justly entitles thee to; I am yet free from thine infatuation; nor have ever suffered avarice to tempt me to desire thee, by improper means nor vain luxury, or pride, to abuse thee by profusion. This pittance only do I call my own, which I devote to the divine author of all the benefits and mercies of my life; ingrateful return, by supplying with it the necessities of my distressed fellow creatures."

Then taking an handful of it to put into his pocket, and happening to observe my shape, he took me up, and looking attentively at me, 'is there no corner of the earth' said he, 'where the wealth of Britain is not dispersed? If its commerce collects the produce of every climate under heaven, its munificence does also diffuse its riches as far. Great and happy nation, wert thou but sensible of the blessings of thy condition; but the time is come, when thou openest thine eyes to thine own interest, and feelest the mightiness of thy strength. How great is the power of true wisdom; how happy the people who have a good man for their guide."

Saying this he put us into his pocket, and as soon as it was dark, wrapped himself in a cloak, and went privately to take a view of his camp in a disguise, that secured him from misinformation or deceit.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE notion I had formed of a camp from the effects which I had seen of war, made me expect a scene of tumult and confusion. But how was I surprised here to find every thing as regular and tranquil as in the best governed city in the midst of peace.

My master had not walked far, when some conversation that seemed to be carried on with warmth in one of the tents, catching his ear, he stopped to listen what might be the subject of it. 'I imagine' said a voice within, 'that we shall have a battle soon: the cheerfulness of the king's looks, and the more than common spirits he has been in for these few days, are certain signs that he has some great things in view. I always observe him so before a battle."

"The sooner it comes the better," replied another, "I only wish that our forces were not so overmatched in numbers; not that I fear success when he is with us; but that we might be able to give them a total defeat at once, and so prevent their making head again. For such is the inequality at present, that while we are killing half of them, the other half escape; and though what we destroy exceeds the number of our own army, yet another army of the runaways still remains to give us more trouble. But however, we must only do our duty, and kill them all one after another."

"And so we will brother," continued the other, "if it please God to preserve our king to us: for while we have him we can fear nothing. The number of our enemies only increases the glory of vanquishing them. Indeed I wonder how they can stand before us even as they do; wretches that are dragged to the war against their inclination, who have no interest in the event, no attachment to their leaders. But what attachment should they have to such leaders, who show no regard to their distresses, nor make any provision for their wants, but just drive them to battle, like oxen to the slaughter, and when it is over, take no farther care about them, but let them perish by famine, if they cannot relieve themselves by plundering the unhappy countries, friends or enemies alike, through which they go?"

"Well, brother," returned a third voice, "thank God, that is not our case; we follow a leader who is a father to his soldiers, and provides for all their occasions. We fight for ourselves and our families, for our laws and religion, and are sure that he will support us in the enjoyment of them, when he has disappointed the designs of his enemies and restored peace to his people: but if we are to fight to-morrow, we had better take our rest to-night, to make us fresh and strong for the battle. God bless and preserve our king; whilst his care watches over us, we can sleep in safety in the midst of our enemies."

This genuine tribute of praise melted the heart of the king with the sublimest delight, and drew the tear of tenderness from his eye. 'O my God' said he when the voices ceased, 'enable me to protect this people, and to bring this just war to an happy end, that they may enjoy the fruit of their virtues.'—He then continued his progress, in which he met many such occasions of conscious pleasure. When he saw that all things were in proper order in the camp, his next care was to visit the quarters of the wounded and sick, for he would not trust them to any person, where he could possibly attend to them himself.

The manner in which all things were ordered here, for the relief and comfort of the evils inseparable from war, were alone sufficient to raise the highest idea of the tenderness and humane care, which directed and supported it. No riot or disorder; no negligence or abuse among the attendants; no misapplication or embezzlement of the provisions made for the patients: all was order and harmony between them. How unlike to other scenes of the same nature, which I had seen before.

If he was delighted with the spirited attachment of his soldiers in health, his delight was almost raised to ecstacy, by the behaviour of these victims, of the madness of the great. The thought of having suffered in his cause the extremest anguish of pain, not even the agonies of death ever making them utter a syllable to his disadvantage, or forget him in their prayers, in which his preservation was always joined with their own relief, and his happiness recommended with their souls to heaven.

This was too moving to be long borne: he joined in the general prayer, and hasted from the tender scene, as soon as he had fulfilled the motive of his going, by taking a strict view of every thing, in which his orders might be disobeyed; and these his particular family, as he called them, suffer by neglect.

His tour was now finished, and he returned to his tent, to take his necessary rest, having distributed, on the various occasions that occurred in his walk, all the money he had taken with him, except me, who happened to stick in the corner of his pocket.

Temperance, exercise, and serenity of conscience, ensured his repose; he fell asleep the moment his head touched the pillow, nor awoke till his usual early time of rising next morning, when he returned to the fatigue and perplexity of such a multiplicity of affairs with a clear head and undismayed heart, and soon reduced the confusion of them into such order, as made their execution easy.

As the soldier had judged, the hour of battle was at hand. The king had scarce finished the business of the morning, when an officer brought him an account; that the forces of the enemy were in motion. 'I expected it,' said the king coolly, 'I knew they could not remain long in the situation they were in. But let us observe their motions, that we may regulate ours by them.'

Then ordering some of his generals to follow him, he went to the top of a neighboring house, from whence he could view them distinctly, where having observed them attentively for some considerable time, 'It is done my friends!' said he, with a smile of joy that enlightened all his face, 'It is done! that last motion is what we wanted. Let us haste and embrace the opportunity

which heaven has put into our hands.' Then descending with an alacrity that inspired every beholder, he made his dispositions for the battle, and, putting himself at the head of his forces, marched directly against the enemy.

Descriptions of battles are never satisfactory; the confusion is too great, and the business of the scene too complex to be brought into the regularity of any one design. I shall therefore only say, that my master was completely victorious; and, to raise his glory the higher, the victory was entirely gained by that part of his forces which he commanded in person; the excellent disposition he had made of the rest rendering it unnecessary for them to do more than stand spectators of the action, from the situation in which he placed them, while they prevented him from being surrounded by the enemy.

This victory was not gained without resistance: the field was long and obstinately disputed, and my master often obliged to lead his men to the charge: but numbers were at length forced to submit to superior valor; and the evening sun saw his banners wave in triumph, where those of his enemies had menaced his destruction in the morning.—If the intrepidity with which he flew from rank to rank, and exposed himself to every shape of death in the action, had struck me with astonishment, I was not less affected by his conduct after it was over; when, cooling instantly from that enthusiasm of courage, he gave his orders for securing the glorious advantage he had gained, for taking immediate care of the unhappy sufferers, both friends and enemies, without distinction, and for refreshing his own labored soldiers, with all the serenity of peace.

The transactions succeeding this event, were but the common occurrences on such occasions, in which there is always something so cruel in the triumphs of the victors, and so severe in the sufferings of the vanquished, that to a being free from the contradictory phrensies of mankind, the very thought is painful. His majesty's next care after returning public thanks to heaven, on the very spot where its favor had been so signal, was to reward the behaviour of his soldiers: he praised; he promoted; he gave money to them, according to their different ranks and dispositions. Nor was his justice more bounteous in the reward of merit, than severe in the punishment of the want of it.

Under such a leader, what forces could withstand his soldiers? Under the discerning eye of such a prince, who was not actuated with ambition to distinguish himself in the execution of his duty, to obtain his favor; who dared to be guilty of disobedience or neglect, to incur his wrath?

From the field of battle the victorious army was directly marched away to a siege, their success in which was to open

them an opportunity of attacking another army of the enemy with advantage.

Such a round of carnage was so shocking, that the virtues of my master were not a balance to the horrors of his service, and I began to wish for a release from such a scene of glory, when an unexpected occasion afforded me the opportunity I anxiously awaited.

A courier arrived from Lisbon on a mission of privacy to my master, into whose hands I was given, as part of a small remittance, for a confidential design. Thus having changed my master, I set out for Lisbon, in his possession, who was to deliver me, with others, to a particular person there.

CHAPTER XXVII.

In so complicated an undertaking, there necessarily must be a great number of engines at work, and in many different places, upon the regularity and agreement of whose motions depends the success of the whole. The person, by whom I was sent to Lisbon, was not to go directly thither; but to take a large circuit, and call at several places in his way, to see that all moved in concert, and every thing was properly prepared for the main action, that precipitancy should not defeat the design a second time.

It is not necessary to recount all the circumstances of this tour, which, for the most part, were no more than the common occurrences, upon such occasions: I shall, therefore, take notice only of such few, as, for their singularity, and importance; may deserve attention. As to the secret motive of the journey, (for that alledged was only to inspect, as usual, into the private concerns of the order) it has been already so well explained, that it is sufficient to say, every thing exceeded expectation, and gave the strongest assurances of success.

As the war had overspread all Germany, it was impossible for my master to avoid falling in with some of the armies, which were then in the field; but this gave him no concern: he was blessed with one of those ready geniuses, that can put on any appearance, so naturally, as to deceive suspicion itself; beside, that he had passports, under one character or another, from every power engaged in the war.

The first event, worth remark, that occurred to us, (for the nature of war and its operations in general have been sufficiently explained before) was in the army of the allies of the king of Bulgaria, into which my master entered, in the character of a Jewish agent. This army was composed of the forces of seve-

ral of the smaller German states, (who were hired by the English to defend their own liberties) a small number of Bulgarians, and a considerable body of English troops.

You are surprised to hear, that people should require to be paid to fight for themselves, in so interesting a cause; but so it is; and so it will continue to be, while a number of little sovereigns assume the state, and live in the luxury of the greatest kings; for, as their own revenues are insufficient to support the expense, they will be ready to sell themselves, to the first that offers, for an immediate supply, without looking forward to, or regarding the consequences of, such inconsiderate, such wretched venality. They have, indeed, this excuse, which the general depravity of mankind seems to justify their alledging, that, as their ruin would involve greater states in some inconveniences, they find these will rather submit to this gross imposition, than suffer them to be swallowed up by others, who would grow too powerful by this accretion.

Base, as such a prostitution of principles must appear, it has been so successfully practised, (and this not by those poorer princes alone; the Austrians and Spaniards occasionally, and the Dutch constantly, availing themselves of it) that England in particular has been drawn in, to bear a part, from which, by her situation, she seemed exempted by heaven, in every war, that has distracted Europe, for some ages, to an expense of blood and treasure, which is already severely felt, and must, if pursued much farther, involve it in the very ruin it thus strives to avert.

There is one, and only one remedy for this, but that is attended with difficulties, which will prevent its being applied, till the evil itself shall work its own redress; a period, that, to human foresight, seems not far distant at present. This is taking away the power of these petty tyrants, who disgrace the name of sovereigns, and uniting their territories into one state, of strength sufficient to support itself. For, while those princes have any power left, they will, consistently with their present systems of policy, oppose this; but the manner in which they have conducted themselves in this war, if not speedily altered, will so effectually reduce that power, that they will be no longer able to resist, but must passively submit to the dominion of whoever will undertake their support: an event as much to be desired by their own immediate subjects, as by the other states, which thus suffer by their absurd and iniquitous conduct, as the severest form of government is preferable to the capricious rule of several tyrants, whose poverty and pride put them upon every method of making the most of their wretched people, without any regard to the established rules of justice, or even

the common rights of humanity. The usual objection to this expedient, of its overturning the liberty of Germany, which they make so great a noise about, is of no weight; that boasted liberty being, at present, no more than the power of those sovereigns to treat their subjects as they please, with impunity, the restraining of which, within just bounds, would really be establishing, not overturning the liberty of mankind.

As to the war, in which the English were at this time engaged, it was to be ascribed solely to this cause. The insatiable ambition of the French had prompted them to strive for the enlargement of their territories in America, where they already possessed an hundred times more than they were able to make any use of. The possessions of the English, in that part of the globe, were also uselessly extensive; however, the boundaries having been settled between them, usurpations were not to be tolerated, consistently with the honor of the state; beside, if they were taken no notice of in the beginning, they might, in time, possibly be extended to the profitable and inhabited parts of their dominions. On this account a war was kindled between those powerful and jealous neighbors, the seat of which was properly transferred by the English, to the place in which the attack had been made upon them; where the superiority of their naval force gave them such advantages, that they not only recovered the places, which had been taken from them, but also absolutely overturned the French power, in those boundless regions, and pursued their conquests in every other part of the world, where the French had made settlements, to the utter ruin of their naval power and trade.

As it was impossible for the French to recover these losses directly, and the ambition and avarice, which first gave occasion to the war, was now strengthened by pride, to prevent their making the concessions on which they might have obtained peace, they removed the seat of the war into Germany, and attacked certain powers there, with whom England was so inseparably connected, that it could not avoid flying to their assistance, in expectation of having all their own losses restored, in return for these territories, if they could get possession of them, which the number of their own land forces, and the alliances they knew they could make among the venal Germans, gave them hopes of accomplishing a scheme not ill founded, as every motive of honor and justice obliged the English to protect and indemnify an innocent people, attacked thus solely on their account. As the French, at the same time that they made this attack, had also entered into the confederacy against the king of Bulgaria, as has been already mentioned, this necessarily cemented the alliance between him and England still closer, and

made him join as many of his troops as he could possibly spare, to the army raised by the English, upon this indispensable occasion, from which conduct he received his immediate advantage, that this army engaged the attention of the French, and prevented their joining their forces, to the number of his enemies; beside a considerable assistance, in money, to enable him to support his own troops.

It was necessary for me to give you this short explanation of the nature of this war, though such digressions are contrary to my design and inclination, that you may be able to form a proper judgment of the extraordinary occurrences I am going to relate to you.

The army through which my master was obliged to pass, as I have said, though paid by England, and the flower of it composed of Britons, was commanded by a German general, in disgraceful acknowledgment of the want of military merit equal to such a charge in the natives: though, to palliate the disgrace, and satisfy the jealousy of the English, they had the imaginary privilege of being immediately under a commander of their own, and subject only to their own laws, in all things, except the operations of the war, when they were of necessity to obey the German commander in chief.

Such distinctions create animosities, often more prejudicial than the inconvenience they were meant to prevent. Accustomed to live in the most luxurious plenty and ease, and valuing themselves upon the riches of their country, which supported the whole army, the English found fault with the victuals and accommodations provided for them, and treated the German troops with whom they were joined, with contempt, who, in return, affected to despise their delicacy, and took the advantage of their want of knowledge of the language of the country, to give such impressions of them, as prevented the people from bringing them in provisions, with that care and cheerfulness which their prompt and generous payment deserved; by which means they suffered the inconveniences of scarcity and dearth, while the others abounded.

Though such feuds among the men threatened the most dangerous consequences, those whose authority ought to put a stop to them, were far from striving to restore that harmony, which alone could give success to their designs. The commander in chief either overlooked as beneath his notice, or was prevented by his attention to the military operations of the campaign, from taking notice of those misunderstandings, and the English commander, ambitious probably of the supreme command, which he imagined he might easily obtain, if he could

make the other sufficiently obnoxious to the English, inflamed them by every artifice he could use.

Nor did he stop here: whenever he was summoned in consequence of his high station, for he was second in command, in the whole army, to attend councils for concerting the operations of the war, he made it his constant practice to contradict whatever was proposed by the commander, and to treat all his schemes with contempt, without ever attempting to offer any thing himself in their place; and this he did the more effectually, as he was a ready and powerful speaker, and perfectly versed in the theory of war; whereas the commander was a thoughtful reserved man, of few words, whose whole life had been spent in action, and who could more easily have executed than explained his designs.

The consequences of this disagreement were very detrimental while it lasted, and must, in the end, have proved fatal to the army, had not the German, without ever attempting to discuss the affair with his wordly antagonist, written directly to the British sovereign, to inform him, that he was so constantly opposed in all his designs, by the English general, that it was impossible for him to do any thing of moment; wherefore he desired either that he might have leave to resign his command, or have his authority freed from this vexatious and dangerous opposition; concluding his letter with these remarkable words:—"Though in a multitude of counsellors there is said to be much safety; yet, in the operations of war, if many are privy to the councils which direct them, there never can be that secrecy, agreement, and dispatch, which are indispensably necessary to success."——

The monarch, who was no stranger to the captious and unquiet disposition of the English general, was sensible of the German's complaint, and immediately removed the cause of it, by giving him an unlimited power to carry on the war as it should appear best to his own private judgment, without consulting with, or being liable to be opposed by, any other person.

It may be thought that the entire removal of the English general would have been a readier and more effectual method; but the nature of the English government made this not quite so proper, as he was descended from one of the most illustrious and powerful families in the kingdom, and a member of the senate, in which his talent for speaking gave him such weight, that it was judged best to avoid giving him cause for exerting his abilities, in opposition to the measures of the government, by removing him from an employment, which he had solicited with all his power and interest; especially as the immense expense of this army began to make the people uneasy, and ready

to receive any impression against it. But the event showed that this caution was ineffectual, and productive of greater evils than that which it was made use of to avoid.

Accordingly, from the time the German general received this enlargement of his authority, he planned his schemes, without ever consulting any person, or even communicating the least hint of them, till the very moment of their being put in execution, when he sent his orders with the peremptory precision of an absolute sovereign. This was a severe stroke upon the English general, who had been accustomed to canvass the very commands of his king, and therefore could badly brook such subordination, to a person whom he affected to hold in contempt, for the inferiority of his understanding. However, as it was in vain to dispute, he obeyed in sullen silence, resolved to seize the first opportunity of defeating his measures, since he could no longer disconcert his councils; and to take hold of the least miscarriage, to attack him, in the British senate, at the end of the campaign, where he doubted not, but he should be able to represent things in such a light, as to have him removed from the command, which must of course devolve upon himself.

This account my master received from a Jesuit the very night he arrived at the camp, who to ingratiate the society more effectually with the French king, and secure his interest and protection, should any unforeseen accident frustrate their design, had entered into the service of the English general, as his valet de chambre, for the better opportunity of discovering the schemes of the allies, which he gave constant intelligence of to their enemies.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE very morning after my master's arrival in the camp an event happened that astonished all Europe. The French army was so superior to that of the allies, that the general was obliged to be entirely on the defensive, nor had his consummate experience, and indefatigable assiduity, been able to prevent their taking several advantages by their numbers, and forcing him to a retreat, that seemed to threaten the loss of the country he was to defend. But, through all these difficulties he persisted steadily in his own plan, and preserved his attention cool, and ready to take any advantage that might offer.

Accordingly, that morning, upon notice of some motions of the enemy, that indicated a design of attacking him, he ordered a small, but select body of forces, almost all of them English, to advance towards them and receive their charge, while

he should make a proper disposition of the rest of his army to give the enemy battle, or make a secure retreat, as he should see expedient; but the unexampled behavior of those few brave troops soon changed the face of the affair; for, not satisfied with repelling the attack of the main body of the enemy's army, they intrepidly advanced to charge them, in their turn, which they did with such irresistible valor, that the French were thrown into confusion, and obliged to abandon the field of battle.

I have said before that the transactions in a battle are so complicated, and confounded with each other, that is impossible to reduce them into the regularity of a satisfactory description; I shall, therefore, enter no farther into the account of this, than just as it concerns the conduct of the English general, which I had a sufficient opportunity of observing, my master having placed himself near his person, in company with his friend.

The moment the commander in chief received an account of the unexpected effects of the valor of the troops, which he had ordered to march towards the enemy, he sent to the English general, who commanded all the horse, in that wing, to advance and sustain them. It is impossible to describe his situation, when a messenger from the general informed him that a part of the army was engaged, in the plain, that lay before him, and ordered him to march the cavalry, under his command, to their assistance. Surprise and resentment, at such a measure's being taken, without his having the least previous notice of it, almost deprived him of his reason; but he recovered himself in a moment, and, drawing his sword with an air of indignation and discontent, was just preparing to obey the orders he had received, when another messenger arrived, and delivered them, but with some variation.]

This the general instantly perceived, and resolved to take advantage of, to justify his obeying neither, in hopes, by that means, to accomplish his scheme of defeating the measures of his commander, without any regard to the consequences that must attend such a conduct. Accordingly, instead of advancing, as he had before prepared to do, he entered into a debate with the messengers about this difference in their orders, and, finding each positive in those he delivered, he coolly determined to go himself to the general for an explanation of them, by trifling away the critical moment; in which manner he expected that the part of the allied army, which was engaged, would be beaten, for want of a proper timely support, when he might have the glory of covering their retreat, and saving the whole army from a defeat, and the pleasure of effectually ruining the character of the general, by attributing the whole misfortune

to his not taking the advice of his council, or even communicating his designs to them in proper time.

Such a scheme was too likely to succeed, had not the unparalleled bravery of the troops, whom he thus designed to have sacrificed to his ambition and resentment, disappointed it beyond all human probability, as I have observed before, and actually beaten the whole army of the enemy, though ten times their number, out of the field, while he was taking advantage of a pretext to abandon them to ruin.

The situation of his mind, when, upon his coming up to the general, he heard the victory was won, may be better conceived than described. The cool distant reception he met with, gave him notice of the storm which was ready to burst over his head: and he saw that the scheme, he had laid so deeply, to perpetrate the ruin of another, had inevitably worked his own, as the very accusations which he had intended to bring against his general, would now recoil upon himself with tenfold force.

According to his fears, the general next morning publicly passed an implicit censure on his conduct, which he saw received with such universal approbation, that he thought it proper to resign his command, for fear of personal insult from the incensed soldiers; and return home, where he did not doubt but the interest of his family, and his own eloquence and address, would vindicate his character at least, if not accomplish his designs against the general.

Though I lost sight of him at this time, yet, as I had an opportunity afterwards of coming to the knowledge of the whole affair, I think it better, and less trouble to us both, to continue the account here, than break my narrative with it in another place.

The first construction which was put upon his conduct was that it proceeded from cowardice; an opinion, which the cruelty of his temper to those under his command gave no small weight to, from this generally just maxim, that the cruel are always cowards; and which many insignificant parts of his former conduct were alledged to confirm; but I have shown that it sprung from another much less justifiable cause; I say less justifiable, as cowardice is a natural infirmity, which a man is no more accountable for than for his being born blind or lame; but such a scheme as his, was a premeditated crime, and aggravated with the blackest circumstances.

The first consequence of his quitting the army was a perfect harmony between the English and Germans; the glory they had acquired upon this occasion, raising the spirits of the former so high, that they thought no more of the inconveniencies

they had complained of before, but readily followed the example of their new commander, whom they all loved, and entered into friendship with their fellow-soldiers, as if there never had been any jealousy between them; who on the other hand, were so struck with their gallant behaviour, and so sensible of the advantages gained by it, that they no longer accused them of improper delicacy, or strove to do them ill offices with the natives of the country, as before. But what completed the happiness of the English, was the commander in chief's indulging their natural thirst for glory, under their present commander, by giving them the post of honor upon all occasions, and taking public notice of their valor, the honor of which they esteemed a sufficient recompence for the severest fatigues and dangers: an indulgence which it was not in his power to give before, as their late commander had always opposed their being exposed to danger out of an affected regard to them, as if they were of greater consequence than the rest of the army, or joined it only to make a figure, and not to do any service.

As soon as the late general arrived in England, his sovereign, who had been informed of the whole affair, immediately deprived him of his very many lucrative and honorable employments, and dismissed him his service; an instance of clemency which few other princes would have shewn, and which regard to the merits of his illustrious ancestors alone procured for him.

But so far was he from having a proper sense of this lenity, or acquiescing in the sentence of his sovereign, that he loudly asserted his being wronged, and demanded a trial, to vindicate his character, with all the assurance of conscious innocence.

This was the highest insult that could be offered to a prince, as it impeached his justice, and questioned his power in the tenderest point; however he scorned to take any advantage of it, but waving every personal resentment, condescended to grant the trial demanded; but with this express declaration, that, as it was at the instance of the party, and without any legal necessity, he should abide by the sentence of his judges, be it what it would, as he would never interfere farther. But this declaration was of little weight; for the general was well advised, before he solicited the trial, that, according to the laws of the country, he was exempted from the danger of it, by being deprived of all his military employments, as they only made a Briton subject to military law, by which he must be tried, and this exemption was the real reason for his being so eager for a trial.

But though his life might be out of danger by this subterfuge, the trial completed the ruin of his character beyond all

possibility of recovery, as upon the most impartial examination his neglect of the orders of his commander, and the pernicious consequences of it, by the loss of so favourable an opportunity of entirely ruining the army of the enemy, and perhaps putting an end to the war, by that means, appeared so plainly, that the justice of his being dismissed the service was not only asserted, but he was also declared incapable of ever being admitted into it again; and thus he fell, a second time, a victim to his own schemes. As to the victory which had been the immediate cause of his ruin, as soon as the circumstances of it, as related here, came to be known to the world, the general lost the glory, which, in the first emotions of joy and admiration, had been so lavishly heaped upon him for it; and it was justly ascribed to accident, as human foresight could not possibly have formed any plan for such an improbable instance of bravery, as that which obtained it.

CHAPTER XXIX.

As soon as the confusion of such an event was a little over, and my master thought he could travel in safety he quitted the camp of the conquerors, and throwing off the character of a Jew, which, as I said, he had borne there, pursued his journey to Brussels, in his own, where he was to receive farther instructions; for, though the great design was carried on by every member of the society, yet the real secret of it was known only to a few of the heads, whose orders the rest obeyed with an implicit exactness, fidelity, and zeal, never equalled by the subjects of any sovereign upon earth, since the days of the old man of the mountain.

It was some time before these instructions arrived; which gave me an opportunity of learning the intrigues of that debauched, gawdy, insignificant court, by my master's intimacy with the confessor of the governor, who, beside the advantage of that character to gain information, was himself a man of pleasure, in the most extensive sense of the phrase, and utterly free from every restraint of principle that could oppose its gratification; though he had the address to maintain the dignity of his station, by his secrecy and regard to propriety of appearance.

There is nothing that contributes so much to the influence which the Jesuits possess over the minds of the people, as their knowledge of the secret history of their lives. To acquire this they stop at nothing; they assume all characters, mix in all companies, and enter into every scene of vicious pleasure, where reserve is thrown off, and the whole heart appears with-

out disguise. Such an opportunity of information therefore was not to be missed. Accordingly, the evening after my master's arrival, he went with his friend to court, where they had a liberty of placing themselves in a convenient situation, to see all the company and make their remarks, without danger of being overheard. Such as were merely political I shall omit, as I am sick of such a stupid subject, and only take notice of those which may extend your knowledge of the human heart. 'Observe that little, mean looking, ill-favored person,' said the confessor, continuing a conversation, the beginning of which I need not repeat, 'who acts as master of the ceremonies. You see his feeble frame is quite worn out with debauchery, and he nods over the grave in anticipated old age, yet still he affects an air of levity and youth, and tries to inflame others by his discourse to vices, which he is no longer able to participate in himself: but this is all grimace, and he assumes this appearance of gaiety, to hide the gloomy discontent and remorse that prey upon his heart.

"There is something so particular in the story of this man, that it may be worth while to give you a short sketch of it. He is a native of a neighboring country, where his father, from the lowest state of poverty, amassed such wealth in trade, that his vanity prompted him to get his family ennobled, to hide the meanness of his original. There is something so absurdly wrong in purchased nobility, that it always turns the heads of the purchasers, perhaps in just retribution for so flagrant an abuse of an institution, meant as a reward for merit. The ennobled man lived not to shew the truth of this observation; but his sons abundantly made up for that, the elder lavishing his wealth on every kind of expensive vanity, and the younger, the person you see, glorying in every kind of debauchery, as if vice and folly were the prerogatives of their honor.

"In the course of a life of pleasure he contracted an acquaintance with that lady, whom you see at the upper end of the room. Though nature had never meant him for a man of intrigue, and debauchery had exhausted even the little powers she gave, he thought it would have been inconsistent with his character as a man of pleasure, not to commence an affair of gallantry, with so desirable a person. Accordingly, as she happened to be married, he directly cultivated an intimacy with her husband, into whose unguarded confidence, he so far insinuated himself, as to receive many acts of friendship from him. To a man who had any sense of honor or honesty, this would have been an irresistible reason for desisting from his base design; but he was above such vulgar restraints, and genteelly

took the opportunity of the husband's friendship to debauch the virtue of a wife.

"Nothing but the most abandoned profligacy in the woman could have given success to such an attempt, as the husband exceeded the paramour in every natural endowment of mind and person, beyond every degree of comparison; but the caprice of vicious inclination is not to be accounted for; it will loath the most exquisite delicacies, and sate itself on garbage.

"They had not continued their commerce long, when their indiscretion betrayed them. It is impossible to describe the astonishment and rage of the injured husband at the discovery! Had it been possible he would have doubted his senses, which were witnesses to his disgrace. In the first emotions of his rage, he was going to break in upon them, and take revenge, which his superior strength amply put in his power; but a moment's reflection shewed him the folly of such an action, and determined him to take the safer and more severe revenge of the law.

"Accordingly he withdrew without being perceived by them and bringing some of his servants to testify their crimes, as soon as he had procured the proof necessary to obtain his satisfaction, entered the room, in the height of their dalliance, and coolly telling them that it would be proper for them to choose another scene for their pleasure, beside his house, retired and left them to their meditations.

"This conduct convinced them of his design, and that they had not a moment to lose, to avoid some of the most disagreeable consequences of it. As soon therefore, as they recovered from the first impressions of their astonishment, they directly departed together, and concealing the place of their retirement, for fear of a pursuit, quitted the territories of the state, as soon as they possibly could.

"But they might have spared themselves that trouble; the revenge which the husband sought was of another nature: he directly instituted a suit at law against them, by which, as he had sufficient proof of their guilt, he obtained a divorce from his wife, and such damages against the violator of his bed as made it impossible for him ever to return to his country, without he designed to languish out the rest of his days in a prison.

"The lovers in the mean time were far from being happy, in the uninterrupted enjoyment of each other. Variety and the mystery of intrigue were all that tempted them to the correspondence at first; and now, that these were lost, reflection opened their eyes to the consequences of their folly, and made them

look upon each other as the authors of their mutual ruin. Such thoughts soon cool the most ardent love; what effect then must they have upon persons in their situation? However, necessity obliged them to conceal their sentiments; and as soon as the divorce gave them liberty, they married, to preserve the appearance of a passion they never felt, and obtain a support from their families, which they could not have expected on any other terms.

"When this was done, and that necessity removed the aversion which they had long entertained, broke out in the most violent manner. They lived in a state of eternal warfare, in which the wife threw off all regard to decency, even so far as to take advantage of her superior strength, and frequently beat her feeble husband. Observe that scar on his upper lip! the third day of their happy marriage he received that mark of her rage from the heel of her slipper, with which she also beat out two of his teeth, whose place he now supplies with artificial ones.

"But the viciousness of her inclination, which first brought him into this wretched situation, released him from it sooner than he deserved. They had fixed their residence here, where the prince soon happened to take a liking to her, the first overture of which, she eagerly embraced; and completed the infamy of her character, by quitting her second husband to become his mistress; in which station you behold her at present.

"Though such a disgrace seemed to be a judicial retaliation upon the husband, for his own base crime, he was insensible of it; and instead of taking advantage of his deliverance, and retiring to some place, where his shame was not known, meanly accepted of the employment in which you see him, and submitted to be the slave of her vice and insolence.

"But though his hatred for her, and passion for the pomp and dissipation of a court, make him brave the infamy of such a situation, sickness, the constant consequence of debauchery, the faithful monitor of guilt, has awoken his conscience to a sense of the crime that has sunk him so low, and raised a remorse that wastes his life, though he thus absurdly strives to drown its voice in the noise of vanity and vice."

CHAPTER XXX.

Mr master was beginning to make some obvious reflections on this account, but his friend soon diverted his attention to another object. "Observe," said he, pointing to a person, who bore all the external marks of nobility in his habit and ap-

pearance, "a striking proof of the insignificance of being born to wealth and honours! Who, that sees the despicable figure which this man makes here, a voluntary exile from his country, where his rank and fortune placed him in the most exalted and advantageous light, can ever throw away a moment's thought on heaping up riches, or obtaining honours, to perpetuate his name and aggrandize his family, the folly and profusion of a single member of which, may thus disappoint his hopes, and make his very virtues an aggravation of his own degeneracy and reproach?"

"In a rank scarce inferior to that of a sovereign, and possessed of a fortune sufficient to support it with dignity to himself, and benefit to the community, did this man enter into life; but a few years of the dissipation, falsely called a life of pleasure, distressed his fortune, and debased his principles to such a degree, that he was obliged, and not ashamed, to have recourse to the mean method of a mercenary marriage, to retrieve his affairs, and enable him to support the external appearance of his character.

"The constant consequences of these marriages might be sufficient to open the eyes of the unhappy victims of them to such a dangerous folly; but vanity possesses so absolute an empire over the female heart, that nothing can prevent the gratification of it.

"The female whom this person pitched upon, as proper for his purpose, on account of her immense wealth, was destitute of every charm of mind and person, to attract or preserve love or esteem. But few are sensible of their own deficiencies, or can bear to be informed of them. On his making the first overture to her, all her real friends took the alarm; they drew his character in proper colours; they shewed her that necessity, not inclination, was the motive of his addresses, and they laid the inevitable consequences of a connexion with such a person, before her in the strongest light: but all was in vain! Her heart was fixed upon rank and precedence, and so she could obtain them, she left the rest to chance.

"Accordingly, as she was absolutely her own mistress, the match was soon made, to the present satisfaction of both parties. He got her fortune, to pay his debts, and pursue his pleasures; and she rode in a coach, with coronets, and was called her Grace.

"But this mutual happiness did not last long; the moment he got possession of her fortune, all his wishes were fulfilled, and as he had nothing farther to expect, he did not think it necessary for him to continue any appearances of love, or even complaisance, for an object really disagreeable to him. Ac-

cordingly, the very morning after his marriage, he set out upon a party of pleasure, with some of his former companions; and left the bride by herself, to receive the compliments, and go through the farce usual on such occasions.

"Though such behaviour must appear base and ungenerous, to the last degree; yet she had no right to complain of it, as she could not expect any other from his known character, and motives for marriage; she therefore put the best face on the matter, and, whether from intoxication at her elevation, or indifference to him, seemed to be insensible of the slight, and went through the ceremony and parade, with all the appearance of pleasure and content, leaving him to pursue his own inclinations without molestation or complaint.

"But this calm did not hold long. As soon as her new dignity lost the charms of novelty, nature awoke as from a dream, and convinced her, that something more than empty shew was necessary to human happiness: but, alas! this conviction came too late; and all her expostulations were as ineffectual to induce the tenderness or esteem of her husband, as those of her friends had been with her, to prevent her marrying him. On the contrary, they turned his indifference into aversion, and made him treat her with indignity and contempt, insulting her deformity, and ridiculing the vanity that had prompted her to sacrifice her fortune for a bare title.

"Hard as such treatment was to be submitted to, she had no redress, but was obliged to bear it in silence, without even the poor consolation of compassion to mitigate her sufferings. At length a farther aggravation of her wrongs gave her the pleasure of revenge, by driving him again into the distresses from which her folly had relieved him.

"In the pursuit of pleasure, to which he had sacrificed his character and fortune, he never had even the excuse of a refined taste, or particular passion, to palliate his folly, but blindly followed the example of his companions, or was a slave to every gross impulse of his own caprice, without the least notion of delicacy, or even decency, to direct him. As he was strolling alone about his house, one unhappy evening, when he had no company to divert his thoughts, he happened, just as it grew dark, to overhear two persons, a male and female, in earnest conversation. Curiosity prompting him to listen, he soon discovered that love was the subject of their discourse, in which the man, whom, by his voice, he knew to be one of his huntsman's helpers, was so successful, that he persuaded the fair one to promise him a meeting, half an hour after, in the dog-kennel.

"Though the place of assignation might have deterred any person, whose senses, as well as inclinations, were not totally debauched, from attempting to supplant the happy lover, the novelty of such an adventure made his lordship overlook that, and supply his dog-boy's place. Accordingly he retired unperceived, and going into the stables, ordered him to be called, and sent him directly on a message some miles off, without giving him an opportunity of letting his mistress know any thing of the matter.

"As soon as the time appointed drew near, his lordship went to the agreeable scene, where the punctual fair one did not let him wait long. As he was about the dog-boy's size, and the place was quite dark, she never perceived the change put upon her, but lavished her caresses upon him with the greatest tenderness, vowing never more to have any correspondence with the pantry-boy or scullion, who, it seems, were the dog-boy's powerful rivals, but to be always constant to him alone; and took her leave of him, with a promise to meet him there at the same time next evening.

"Disgusting as every circumstance of this affair should have been, the oddity of it, with the pleasure of supplanting another, even so mean a person, and in so unworthy an object, made him determine to be punctual to her appointment. But then the difficulty was, how to prevent his rival's traversing his design, for his delicacy was not the least alarmed at the thought of his participating in her favors. He was also at a loss to know who the obliging female might be, for the darkness that concealed him, was equally favorable to her, and he was a stranger to her voice; nor did he care to ask any questions, as that would betray his own imposture, and bring on an explanation that he did not desire, both as his greatest pleasure was in the cheat, and the discovery might be attended with circumstances he should choose to avoid, in case the female was disagreeable to him.

"To obviate all these inconveniencies, he ordered his rival to attend him the moment he returned, when he gave him a letter to carry that instant to a gentleman who lived about twenty miles off, with directions to be back early the next day with an answer. This he said aloud in the hearing of all his servants, that if his mistress should happen to hear of her lover's being sent from home, she might also have reason to expect his return time enough to keep the appointment; but to prevent this, he had desired the person to whom he wrote, to keep the messenger, as if for an answer of the letter, two or three days; in which time he concluded he himself should be tired of the amour.

CHAPTER XXXI.

PLEASED with the sagacity of this scheme, he waited for the next evening with an impatience that he did not often feel on such occasions; but an unlucky accident disappointed his designs. The gentleman, to whom he wrote the letter, happened not to be at home, nor was expected for a day or two; wherefore, as his lord had ordered him to make haste back, he left the letter and returned without any delay, perhaps not more in obedience to his orders, than from his impatience to retrieve the disappointment his desires had met by his absence the evening before.

"As soon as he alighted, therefore, his first care was to find out his mistress, to tell her the reason of his disappointing her the evening before, and to make a new assignation for that; but what was their mutual surprise when they came to compare notes! As he insisted on his not having attended the appointment, she flew into a rage, and accused him of having betrayed her basely to some of his companions; and as she positively asserted her having met some person there, he accused her, with equal warmth, of inconstancy, and sacrificing him to some of his rivals, on whom he vowed the severest vengeance, if he should ever find him out.

"As this altercation was not carried on with much delicacy on either side, it soon produced an absolute rupture between the lovers, who separated with sentiments for each other, very different from those with which they met. The dog-boy, in an hour or two, when his resentment cooled a little, recollected that it might be proper to let his lord know the success of his message, who sent for him into his presence directly; and being freed from his apprehensions, by hearing that he was *but that moment* returned, ordered him to set out again instantly, and deliver the letter to the gentleman, wherever he was, and not return without an answer.

"His orders were so urgent, that the fellow did not dare to make the least delay; but fortune, that seemed resolved to cross his lordship's designs, contrived it so, that he met the gentleman on his road, without having called at home, or received the letter that had been left for him. Upon the dog-boy's informing him of it, he concluded, as he was much nearer to his lordship's than to his own house, that it was the readiest way to wait upon him directly, without minding to send the man for the letter. Accordingly, he bade him turn back, and ride on before him, to acquaint his lordship of his coming.

" Though it was late when he set out the second time, he made such haste, that he reached home just at the time of his lordship's appointment; when it unluckily coming into his head, that his perfidious mistress might possibly have taken the advantage of his absence, to make another assignation in his dog kennel, the first thing he did, the moment he dismounted from his horse, was to go there to see if any one had invaded his territories.

" Nor was his suspicion disappointed; for the fair one was so uneasy to unravel the mystery of the adventure of the evening before, that she punctually attended her appointment, where she had not waited many minutes before her unknown lover arrived. The scene of their meeting was so dark, that it was impossible for either of them to know the other. However, she soon thought of a method to remedy this, which was to purloin something out of his pockets, by which she might discover who he was, without betraying herself; for she soon found that he knew no more of her, than she did of him.

" She had just executed her design, and was taking her leave of her lover, when her jealous rival came upon them unawares, and overhearing their expressions of fondness, was so enraged that he resolved to take immediate revenge; accordingly, he approached them without any noise, and turning the but-end of his whip, aimed a stroke so unluckily, though at a venture, that it felled his lordship to the ground. The female, who instantly guessed what was the matter, took advantage of the darkness to make her escape, which she happily effected without any disaster, the dog-boy stumbling over his fallen adversary, the first step he advanced to pursue her.

" His lordship, half recovered from the blow, laid hold of his antagonist, who grappling with him directly, a battle ensued, in which nobility was so rudely handled, that his lordship was obliged to declare himself, and cry out for quarter. It is easy to conceive the confusion of the conquerer upon this discovery; he strove to disengage himself and make his escape; but his lordship held him fast, promising to forgive him, though, if he would have the discretion never to mention a syllable of the affair, and inform him who the female was with whom he had made the assignation to meet in this place the evening before.

" These conditions were too easy not to be immediately complied with. He accordingly swore eternal secrecy, and readily told his lordship, that the girl was no other than the kitchen-maid's daughter, who served as a scullion wench under her mother.

"This discovery of his mistress's quality was almost as disagreeable to his lordship, as the effect of the dog-boy's jealousy. However, he smothered his vexation, and stealing secretly into the house; that he might not be seen in such a condition, retired to his own apartment by himself, to change his clothes, and wash off the blood and dirt with which he was all over plentifully daubed.

"As soon as he had set himself somewhat to rights, he rung for his valet-de-chambre, who was his usual agent on such occasions, and ordered him to bring the kitchen maid's daughter up to him. The valet, who was sufficiently acquainted with the capriciousness of his master's taste, was not in the least surprised at his choice of such an object, but obeyed him directly.

"The fortunate female, who had found out the quality of her new lover by his snuff box, which she had picked out of his pocket, was almost afraid to obey the glad summons, for fear she might be suspected of having designedly occasioned the outrage his lordship had lately met: however, her ambition getting the better of her fear, she suffered herself to be prevailed on, and went trembling and blushing, in all the bashfulness of virgin innocence, to know his lordship's commands.

"If he had been surprised at the discovery of her condition, he was much more agreeably so at the sight of her: for though she was far from being handsome, there was something in her face, which with her extreme youth, and a glow of health that her confusion heightened not a little, struck his fancy in an uncommon manner. He therefore, without giving her the least hint of what had happened, as he imagined she knew nothing of him, made no ceremony of proposing love to her. But, young as she was, she had too much woman in her soul to comply so easily, though there was nothing she desired more ardently. Accordingly, she refused his lordship with the most respectful modesty, and on urging his request farther, threw herself at his feet in a flood of tears, and begged him to have compassion upon her friendless youth and innocence.

"Such behaviour would have made him doubt the dog-boy's information, did not the sound of her voice convince him she was the person. He, therefore, laughed at her artifice, and told her that as soon as the farce was ended, he should expect another answer, as he knew she had granted to others the favor he asked of her.

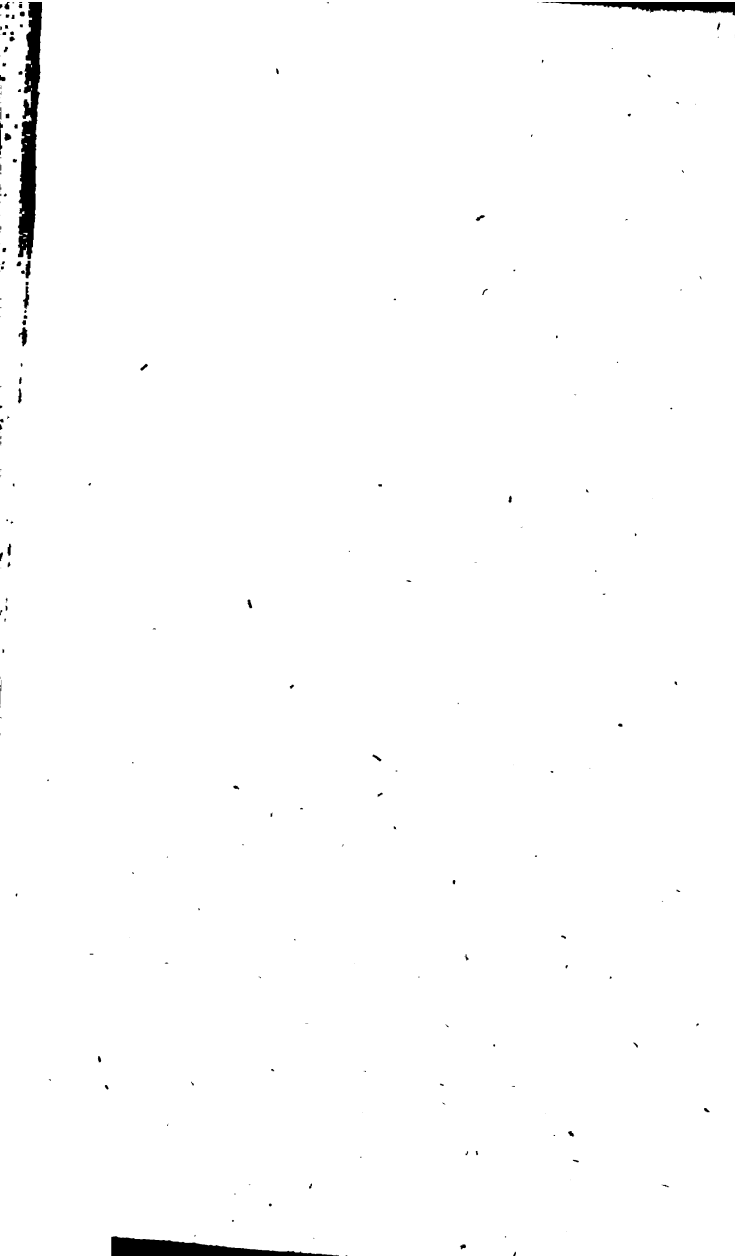
"This convinced her that he had discovered her, and that it was necessary for her to enlarge her scheme, to accomplish the design she had formed, of establishing a lasting interest in his affections. Accordingly, upon his saying this, she embraced

his knees in a seeming agony of distress, and conjuring him to have mercy on her folly, owned that she had transgressed with one, and one only, who had made such an impression upon her heart, that though she had taken him for another and knew not even who he was, she had made a vow never to repeat her folly with any other.

"The candor of this confession, the greatest part of which he thought he knew to be true, completed her conquest over him. He raised her from the ground and embracing her tenderly, discovered himself to her. The consequence is obvious. She immediately appeared in public as his mistress, and had the address to accommodate herself so entirely to his caprices, that she soon gained the absolute mastery of his heart. As for the poor dog-boy, he was turned off of course, as an offence to her sight, though not without a considerable gratuity to purchase his silence; but that was impossible; the moment he left the house, he looked upon himself as freed from the necessity of concealing it any longer, and made it the common subject of his discourse, till it became as publicly known as his lordship's name.

"This happened just as his affairs became again so distressed, that he was forced to withhold the support he allowed his wife. She therefore directly took the advantage of it to sue him for a separate maintenance, on the plea of his thus living in avowed adultery. The fact was too flagrant to be denied, and his infatuation was such, that he would not remove the cause, to avoid the consequence of the suit, but chose to quit his native country, and come here with his mistress, to live in the disesteem and contempt you see him treated with, on the poor pittance of his fortune, which the law allows him for his support; the rest, much the greater part of it, being assigned for the maintenance of his wife, and payment of his debts."

END OF VOLUME FIRST.





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